RADIO-PERCEPTION

THE JOURNAL OF THE
BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS

Vol. VII No. 56 JUNE, 1947

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Published quarterly by the Society at York House, Portugal St ,W.C.2

Price to Non-Members, 3/-

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JOURNAL OF THE
BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS

Vol. VII. No. 56 June, 1947

NOTICES

The poll taken in accordance with the decision of the General Meeting on October 16th, 1946, showed a large majority in favour of the raising of the subscriptions, cards returned showing 204 " for " and 65 " against."

The rates of subscription from July 1st, 1947, will therefore be as follows :—

Home Members—Annual	.. ..	£1 1 0
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The Entrance Fee remaining at 10/6.

Clause 14 of the Rules should be amended accordingly.

* * * *

Contributions for the *Journal*, preferably in typescript, should be sent to the Editor at least five weeks before the first day of March, June, September and December if they are to appear in the respective *Journals* for those months.

* * * *

There was a misprint in the seventh line from the bottom of page 139 in No. 55 *Journal* : the word " Stewart " should have been spelt " Stuart."

* * * *

The Editor would be glad to know of any member who will review the Italian journal *Rivista Italiana di Radiestesia* and other Italian publications.

* * * *

A list of books in the B.S.D. Library can be obtained from the Editor.

* * * *

The Title Page and Contents for Vol. VI have been printed and will be supplied by the Editor on application.

* * * *

The price of new *Journals* to members, in excess of the free number, and of old *Journals*, is 2/- and 1/6 respectively.

Six free copies of the *Journal* will be given, on request, to writers of articles in it, in addition to the usual copy.

* * * *

The Editor would be glad to receive the following numbers of the *Journal* on behalf of certain members who require them : 1 to 5, and 8.

The latest catalogue of books and radiesthetic appliances for sale at the Maison de la Radiesthésie, 16 Rue Saint-Roch, Paris (1er), can be obtained from the Editor.

* * * *

Mr. W. G. Benham is starting a radiesthetic healing practice at 10 York Gate, N.W.1. Interviews will be given by appointment only. Telephone: Welbeck 4844.

* * * *

Besides general teaching through postal courses, Mr. Noel Macbeth is supplying French apparatus, with delivery in one month. In stock are models created by Bovis, Lesourd, Mellin, Naret, Turenne, Voillaume and others. Rules by Turenne now allow temperature and a blood count of an absent patient to be gauged by pendulum; by another rule, the temperatures of several pottery ovens can be controlled, one at a time, from the Manager's office; by a third rule, barometer readings can be taken. These rules, with working instructions, will be lent to members of the B.S.D. in Britain, who are professionally interested, for a trial period.

* * * *

Mrs. Kingsley Tarpey's little book, *Healing by Radiesthesia*, can be obtained from the Forum Publishing Company, 64 Winifred Road, Coulsdon, Surrey; or from Mrs. Kingsley Tarpey, 35 Downside Crescent, Belsize Park, N.W.3; price 2/6, post free.

* * * *

Copies of *Radiesthésie Pour Tous* are on sale at 2/- each at The News Stores, 11 Coptic Street, British Museum, W.C.1. Orders for twelve consecutive copies, at 16/8, may be sent to Mr. Noel Macbeth (B.S.D.), Moulsham Mill House, Chelmsford, Essex.

* * * *

Radiesthesia II and Dr. Richard's *Medical Dowsing* can be obtained from Miss Barnard, 25 Berkeley Square, London, W.1, at 3/6 and 1/1 post free, respectively, or 4/6 if ordered together.

* * * *

The following Divining Rods can be obtained from Mr. Guy Underwood, Belcombe House, Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts:—

OASIS Pocket Divining Rod (in case), 10/-.
Ditto, larger "Supersensitive" Type, 21/-.
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Also

Reprints of four articles and a lecture on dowsing published in the *B.S.D. Journal*, price 6/- the set.

All post free, cash with order, and subject to a discount of 20 per cent. (4/- in the pound) to members of the B.S.D.

Whalebone strips, cut to the following dimensions, can be obtained from Messrs. Devine and Co. Ltd., St. Stephen's Road, Old Ford, London, E.3, at the price of 5/- per rod (2 strips).

Flat: 12in. long x 7mm. wide x 2mm. or 3mm. thick.
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Spherical whale-ivory pendulums can also be supplied at 10/- each. Prices for rods and pendulums prepared to specific dimensions are given on request.

All prices are post free in U.K.

* * * *

The Society's badges can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary. Owing to the increased cost of postage, the price is now 1/3 post free.

* * * *

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PART ONE

THE ROD ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Abstract of a Paper read at the Rooms of the Medical Society, 11 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.1, on 14th May, 1947,

By LESLIE J. LATHAM, F.G.S., F.R.A.S., F.R.S.A.

When the casual observer, Ladies and Gentlemen, contemplates this Society, his curiosity is apt to penetrate little beyond those practical field-craft activities whereby its votaries are become, shall I say, notorious. He may not easily realise that underlying this common bond of a quaint, rustic pastime we aremotivatedby a sober and progressive speculation among one another upon those natural phenomena in whose exercise we strive to attain a proficiency. Despite the most dogmatic efforts of some of us, and despite some of the really admirable research conducted in our name in recent years, our work still cannot claim to rank as an exact science. For this reason, our discussions together remain on a very speculative plane. But, let it be admitted, those speculations are to-day by no means abstract. And since the inevitable diversity of our methods and interpretation of results remains so wide, no exact canon of field conduct suited to one and all can as yet be drawn. I would suggest that we ought to be most thankful for the present elasticity of our harness, permitting us, as it does, to revel in our respective eccentricities without prejudice to that good-humoured freedom from faction which we see about us at these gatherings. And it is this kindly, homely atmosphere that gives me courage this afternoon; for your tolerance must be little short of polemical that you can bring yourselves to listen to so reactionary a speaker a second time in a few months! I shall try, let me assure you, not to exploit this kindly patience of yours too far.

To-day, at the suggestion of our President, we are departing from the realms of speculation, and we are launching out, with your permission, into a bald narration of fact. But I am hoping that the story you are about to hear will not be without its lesson for each of us. It is certainly not without its interest. I am going to tell you, in short, the story of a battle; the battle in which the rustic art of the dowser was pitted against the imponderable weight of a severely regimented officialdom reinforced and stiffened as it was by mobilised science. In following the separate actions of that long battle, we shall cross half the globe together, and shall traverse a good six years in recent time. Your speaker this afternoon comes to you as merely a humble instrument in that battle; a comrade-in-arms, if you like, of the rod he served. And a very inefficient comrade he was, too, on occasions! The real victor, in fact, was the rod,

based as it was upon those unconquerable, if intangible, forces whose servant it was. But our battle with officialdom, though severe, was passively defensive and rarely more than local in effect. Our theatre of operations extended over a surprisingly long range throughout that terrain over which the armed forces of the Allied Powers deployed their might in that ugly, but splendid struggle from which, by God's grace, we have just emerged. Nor, as you will see, did we confine our tactics to the land forces. We not only went to sea in grim earnest with the Royal Navy, but carried on thousands of feet aloft as well with the Fleet Air Arm.

Like a doctor, a diviner is always on duty, and though his arts are not so dearly bought, there are so many more doctors than dowsers that when demand for the latter does arise the need is dire indeed. This has often been illustrated in the recent desert warfare, where even the most violent sceptic was sometimes known to wring his hands in anguish for a sight of the despised dowser. And, like the doctor, the diviner is morally and physically incapable of not declaring himself to his hapless fellows when they are in need of him, which was often enough during the war; more often, in fact, than has been reported. This was the sort of cause and effect which engineered your speaker into the practice of his craft, despite the hurried expediency of operations.

Cast your minds back, for example, to the state of the war at sea in the anxious months that ushered in the fateful year 1940. Despite the guarded tone of the Press, few of us had any illusions as to the real peril threatening England from the German magnetic mine. It was fortunate, indeed, that a concentrated war effort spared us, mercifully, little leisure to think on our woes in those days. I need hardly remind you how this menace developed at such a tempo that within a horribly short time the toll in shipping on the busier estuaries of these islands had arrested essential supplies to all but a trickle. So dangerous had this crisis become that the responsible Admiralty officials were willing to resort to any measure, no matter how unorthodox, to deal with the situation. But for all the anxiety of the times, my earlier attempts to place such aids as dowsing might offer in coping with this problem were met with a firm and immediate refusal on the part of not only Naval Intelligence, but from the scientific advisers concerned. But, anticipating this refusal, we had successfully prevailed upon Public Relations at the War Office to corner precious news columns and break the hitherto silent story of the Kensington Roman discoveries made by dowsing. This explains the long gap from 1938 until 1940 that elapsed from the actual excavations until the relevant publicity. You will have read the story in your last issue of the *Journal*. The Kensington dowsing news item broke on the national newspapers over the early part of February, 1940, and it may be of

some satisfaction to this Society to realise that Fleet Street regarded the event as sufficiently topical to allocate double column headings. This was tribute, indeed, when one recalls that the item reported was so totally unallied, on the face of it, to the war effort, and that the report appeared at a time when even murders and other capital crimes were being crowded down into minimum space by war-effort reporting. And the two-fold lesson for us here is that our work is far dearer, perhaps, to the public heart than we sometimes suppose, and that of the two officialdoms, the War Office, if anything, is a great deal more inclined to recognise the possibilities of our craft than is the Admiralty (which, I admit, may not be saying much !). The point being, one supposes, that the land force affords a more practical exercise ground for water finding than does the Royal Navy.

This publicity had a mellowing effect upon certain quarters, and the original official reaction underwent, in consequence, a gratifying softening. It became the turn of the scientific advisers, for a change, to be the "voice crying in the wilderness." By early May, 1940, I had the intense gratification of seeing the fruits of all the hard, and often disheartening, work I had put in to get our methods a trial. With a despatch and facility that is so admirably Naval, the Admiralty took action through its Rear-Admiral Directing Mine Laying. The official request asking the War Office in the most urgent terms that I be seconded for experimental purposes to the Senior Service was at last issued. I have had to mention this activity to you this afternoon only in the most general fashion, however. The story of those experiments wherein the Admiralty co-operated, once committed, with a thoroughness and enthusiasm such as only sailors can, is going to form a whole chapter in the comparatively unexploited field of marine dowsing. It is as thrilling as it is complex. But, alas, that story cannot yet be the property of this Society. It is a rightful necessity of security that Admiralty permission be sought before the details can be placed at your disposal, and that permission has already been asked for. When it is at hand, the available material, every aspect of which was filmed from start to finish, will afford, with your permissions, the subject matter for a separate paper.

We will leave marine dowsing, therefore, for this afternoon, and turn our attention to those arid theatres of operations where one imagines the rod more at home. On a memorable 27th September, 1941, I found myself packed by an optimistic Movement Control into the ss. *Empress of Australia*, with some 4,000 of my kind, bound for Heaven knew where. I can recall being ludicrously homesick, for a professional soldier, and I scowled at the receding Liver Building with a ferocity that was a disciplinary necessity. But we were all shuddering too much with hasty vaccines to care overmuch what emotions we dis-

played. We were destined, most of us, for the Middle East, into Egypt through Suez. And in those doubtful days we sailed, as everyone knows, all round Africa to man the Western Desert in Libya; a matter of 9,000 miles to reach an objective only 3,000 miles from England, to say nothing of the deadly loss of four weeks' sailing time. As I dare say most of you know from experience, the problem of occupying the passengers on a long sea trip is acute, and you can well imagine how this can be aggravated in a ship crammed with troops into holds that were not planned for trooping, and whose accommodation was, in any case, not adapted to the Tropics. Nor was the morale of those troops necessarily of the highest order under such circumstances. Finding myself on the ship's staff for the duration of the voyage, I succeeded in convincing a refreshingly broad-minded but almost desperate O.C. Troops that dowsing lectures, demonstrations and classes were the sure answer to his prayer for diversionary occupation for those on board.

I think everyone here can bear witness from his or her experience how rapidly contagious dowsing enthusiasm can become in the right atmosphere. Every unit on board had its two initial dowsing lectures on the largest deck we could allocate for the purpose. This happened, miserably, to be over the engines, and well we knew it when we came to continue under the notorious lassitude of Red Sea temperatures! Some of the larger drafts were some 300 strong, and each lecture produced its crop of eager volunteers to follow the advanced classes arranged to cover the duration of the voyage. Looking back, I should say that the most enthusiastic were the handful of officers we carried of the women's services. They seemed to have unlimited energy, and were far better able to withstand the extremes of temperature. Invariably, they would turn up at lectures with businesslike notebooks, looking enviably cool and fresh, and, incidentally, keeping the men up to scratch. Freetown, Durban and Aden were all left behind in their turn,and by the time we dock ed at Suez I had a prize class of twenty-eight personnel, mostly of the Royal Engineer drafts, who could pretty unerringly determine with a pendulum a tumbler of sea water from that of fresh water, as well as knowing sufficient of our working procedure to be able to go into the field with the rod, bent on a fair chance of some solid results. I would say here that most of this class had never touched a rod before embarking at Liverpool, and many of them had been sceptics. We shed some of our drafts at Durban for Singapore with *H.M.S. Repulse*, and a good few of them subsequently shared that fine ship's unhappy fate. Of those we carried on with us to Egypt and the desert, many were claimed by the desert for ever. But I like to think that among those who survived that early convoy (and there were not many) the memory of those happy times, where we jocularly out-dowsed each other on our

outward voyage, with the friendships the rod brought us, brightened many a long desert vigil or prison camp. And years afterwards I would get reports back from the Western Desert or from the Eighth Army of our men sometimes acquitting themselves of a piece of good water-finding, and, sure enough, their names had been on the trooping list of the old *Empress of Australia*.

My own particular unit, a small Supply formation of the Royal Army Service Corps, finally disembarked at Port Tewfik late in October, 1941, when, for the next two months, we ran a depot in that desert strip north of Geneifa which overlooks the Sinai peninsula from the canal zone. And having been thus "hardened off" and suffered our baptism of the usual discomforting ailments of the locality, we were regarded as fit to fill our role. The first few days of 1942 found us all securely packed into lorries forming part of a long yellow snake of transports that lurched and bumped its way in a white dust cloud across the Sinai Desert towards Bir Sheba and Damascus, to the distant north. I remember thinking at the time that even should I never see England again, surely all the discomforts, doubts and miseries of war were so ample recompensed by the soul-shaking thrill of treading that historic causeway. The dust we now stirred was that same dust as was stirred by the feet of the Libyan levies of Thotmose III, the successive waves of glittering Assyrian and Persian horse, the irresistible cavalry of Alexander, the inevitable iron legions of Rome, and so on down the ages to our own fathers but six-and-twenty years before in Allenby's Egyptian Expeditionary Force. Even the most hard-eyed, prosaic realists among us, hailing as they did from distressed areas (whose sole concern with history was what it does to them), had an abstracted, far-away look for the first time. Being concerned with the administration side of the unit, I had them each in turn surreptitiously ply me with questions of vague historic import, since, they supposed, I was one who "dabbled in that sort of thing." Before I leave this interesting three-day trek, I ought to mention that since I was responsible for the medical post of the unit as well, I had one lorry from which I daily dispensed with sublime impartiality for everything from desert sores to the usual internal bothers. And a fine time I had of it keeping my precious bottles intact and maintaining a firm peace among our quota of adopted wild dogs and cats which shared my lorry, the cats insisting on sorting out the cotton wool.

Our spell at Damascus began with our being billeted in the "Street which is Called Straight," and ended in our operating to the south of the city under the lee of snow-capped Mount Hermon. Watching the sun gild those lofty snows each successive dawn against an indigo Mediterranean sky spoils a man for ordinary sun-rises.

We were not left long in peace in this Paradise, and as early as March, 1942, we pushed on once more to the north, where, at Aleppo, we took over a depot from the Australian Forces. Here I was destined to remain for some two years. After the glamour of Damascus, I think we were all inclined to regard the city of Aleppo with some misgiving. Not that there is any lack of association either in its ancient Hittite mound or in the celebrated Islamic citadel it supports. It was enough for one that the Prophet Ezekiel, as early as 580 B.C., lauds the city for its wines! (Ez. xxvii. 18). It was just that the name is dwarfed somehow to English ears, and quite unjustly. Also, you must remember the city was the key, as it were, to the Turkish border, which lay only forty-five miles to the north. And the proximity of one of the few neutral borders of the war was bound to be a source of tenseness to Near East strategy, as well as to we ourselves, who were at times the northernmost unit. More than once this tenseness would be reflected in sudden and heavy troop concentrations in our area, which corresponded, we uneasily supposed, to similar concentrations that had been detected upon the Bulgarian side. These agitations were inevitable, as everyone knows, but by some tip of the wheel of fate the worst, whatever that was, never happened, and we soldiered watchfully on, not reasoning why.

I am sure you will now begin to discern, not only the prime importance of the state of the Syrian border in those days, but you will appreciate why dowsing, in view of the arid desert territory surrounding Aleppo, came to play its vital part as an auxiliary service in making possible those concentrations we have discussed. For this reason, it will be necessary for me to outline with you, briefly, some of the climatic and geological factors which had to be taken into account on the spot. It is almost habit with diviners to conduct an unostentatious survey of the local water resources on arrival at a new place. I found the Aleppo district carrying a population of 350,000 souls; an insular community quite cut off from the outside world by the arid wastes around it. For forty-two centuries, at least, it seems to have been unfailingly watered by the River Qweq (the ancient Chalus of Xenophon), having its source in the small swamp of Matkh somewhat to the north. This region, the commencement of the torrid Mesopotamian wastes, has, at best, an average annual rainfall of less than twenty-six inches. Practically all of this is brought up on west winds during only 55 days of the year, from mid-December to late February, the heaviest falls being in January, when snow and frost were also a frequent feature. Coming, as they do, from the west, the rain winds lose much of their precious load upon the Mediterranean side of the rocky coastal barriers to the west. This range also makes the Aleppo hinterland much hotter than the rest of the Levant, so

that July temperatures register an easy shade-ninety, whilst during the kharmseens (hot winds) that precede the rains shade temperatures of 104 degrees can be recorded. The district is tabled 1,215 feet above sea-level, upon volcanic outflows of igneous rock, which have intruded themselves across the native Cretaceous limestones. This last, as a stratum, is a productive hunting ground for boreholes, and enjoys a retentive 5 per cent. porosity, but in the Aleppo region it is rent in all directions by the faults, fissures and dykes of the cataclysmic earthquakes which occur on an average every hundred and fifty years, or thereabouts. The last of these was in 1830,but, apart from these major disasters, there is an almost constant seismographic activity resulting from the region's proximity to one of the earth's epicentres, or shock areas, namely, that of nearby Anatolia. Subterranean fracture, with imperceptible surface effects, is thus of frequent occurrence. Thus we find that it is a peculiarity of this region that chains of tented or hutted Bedouin or other villages across the desert, that have many moons survived on shallow, brackish wells, dry up without warning, and whole tribes, with their primitive Biblical paraphernalia, will have to wind off in search of new waters. This fickle water phenomenon is peculiar,so far as I know, to the North Syrian geological system, and I offer it as an explanation of that otherwise mysterious enigma in Near East archæology, the so-called " Hundred Dead Cities of Syria." I am convinced that such mighty monuments were not abandoned because their cultures suffered a barbarian eclipse, but because what is happening seismographically to-day, in miniature, all over the desert, happened on a larger scale in the tenth century.

So much for the nature of the catchment area and for its annual receipts of rain. There were, not unnaturally, no boring logs of the area, although the local Free French Forces had attempted a very creditable geological appreciation, which was placed at my complete disposal. It appeared that the Cretaceous here (a marine deposit of the Secondaries laid down some seventy to a hundred million years ago), was several miles thick, and with a careful study of the subterranean basins made by the crystalline intrusions, much good water location might be possible. But in this sort of territory one's flow was always following a definite, limited course, unlike England, where, in parts of the south, one's bore can still draw water even though dropped somewhat " wide." In Syria, your bore was either " dead on " or nowhere at all, a few yards making all the difference. The total absence of vegetation, save for the narrow agricultural belt along the river, coupled with the great heat of the summer months, warned me that we must calculate an evaporation fraction of half the rainfall, instead of the old third that applies here. And from this we computed that if the catchment area was receiving in rainfall

1,031,080 gallons per square mile annually, and if the Aleppo population were to be allowed, say, 50 gallons a head per day, municipal needs included, then they must consume the receipts of at least 33 square miles of catchment area. Moreover, since the region's sole water-course both started and finished within its bounds (in a swamp in each case), I was able to arrive at some appreciation of the amount of water available for bore. You will appreciate that, under a combination of circumstances, the combined forces of Free French and Ninth Army in occupation in the area placed a serious strain upon the almost mediæval water-supply system, which was, in any case, barely adequate for the normal population. But consider how grave a situation was created when any tactical force in excess of normal occupational requirements had suddenly to deploy in the uncomfortably narrow gap of territory between the city and the Turkish border! Allowing a uniform density of concentration along the frontier, it meant that our already overstrained catchment area immediately north of us must somehow accommodate its section of that long ribbon of heavy thirsts. How was it to be done?

As most of us know, the maintenance of Army water supplies in the field is delegated to the able hands of the Royal Engineers, whose engineering manuals, obtainable at H.M. Stationery Office by any member of the public, are still the last word in the inner mysteries of location, supply and boring technique. (And, incidentally, I do advise any here requiring information upon that absorbing practical side of our craft which we tend to regard as outside our notice, to arm themselves with one of these little books for a few shillings). At Aleppo much of the successful pattern of subsequent events was due to the circumstance that the appointment of D.C.R.E. was in those days held by a man whose skill as an engineer was matched by a rare breadth of vision. He had, attached to his staff, an officer who in civil life was a professional geologist, but *he* had been East long enough for the absolute science to have been tempered out of his Western soul into a cautious tolerance of the things one comes across in those regions. The D.C.R.E. was soldier enough, too, to neglect nothing that might be of operational value, and by some means, which he never disclosed, he learned of my existence. It is possible that some of his staff had attended the absolute spate of Toc H or Y.M.C.A. lectures I used to pour out on dowsing, and there were certainly officers in his mess who had been in the *Empress of Australia*. On receipt of his orders from G.H.Q., it is to his eternal credit that he sent for both geologist *and* dowser! To his astonishment, I expected him, and I, in turn, declined to disclose how what was then top secret information had come into my possession. But I can now disclose without damage or mutual embarrassment that, although he did not realise it, I was a daily visitant to the very heart of

the native souk (or market) in pursuit of antiquities for my cabinets at home. Here my impassioned hand-wringing and lucky command of dialect had made me as much a part of the place as the very camels that knelt chewing away the hot hours until their next remote assignment. And here, too, I had for weeks past detected, rising shrill above the garlic-wafted clamour of Kurd and Bedouin, a change of key in that magic telegraph of the desert, the native price of gold at the money changers' tables. An upcreep in the quotation of the gold pound always warned me weeks ahead of official rumour that events of grave and doubtful issue were afoot.

Thanks to my having "sat at the feet" of the local French Forces, the D.C.R.E. found me already quite encyclopædic in the meteorology and geology of the district now under such urgent consideration, and all he had to do was to arrange with the Area Commander that I could be detached from my normal duties in Aleppo itself at a moment's notice, and as often as operational requirements demanded. For various reasons that do not matter here, it was decided that the most urgent need for water supplies lay north of a place called Muslemiyer, some twelve miles north of the city. A crude and tiny native settlement, Muslemiyer drew its own water from the Qweq, but it will be seen that if this and Aleppo itself were to be spared their existing meagre supply, we had to keep well clear of the river. The geological officer and myself carried out an initial reconnaissance in a staff car, and I had to agree with my companion that the undulating hillocks covered with their peculiar red earth, barren as they were alike of vegetation and outcrops, offered few clues, indeed, along pure geological lines.

Back home, one relied upon the natural trees and other flora to plot one's strata and delimit one's prospecting area, especially in default of comprehensive boring-logs. But here we were miles from a decent tree, and, in any case, my botany was quite lost outside England, and south-east England at that! And you who have done your dowsing in the comfortable privacy of British meads and hedgerows can have no idea of the ghastly, cold, sinking feeling one can experience in one's stomach when an authoritatively efficient voice crisply details you, with an airy wave of the owner's hand at the horizon, that it is intended to make available a daily minimum of 80,000 gallons in the adjacent few square miles. I had only to divide this by eight (the official military allowance per day per man) to think in terms of an entire armoured division after my blood if I made a mistake, and this, coupled with the prospect of a comparatively restricted and most unpromising chunk of wilderness to work in, made me wish I had never heard of a divining rod! To make matters worse, there was a geologist present, the inevitable ring of open-mouthed Arabs to work in, and, to cap it all, an

ominously gentle voice whispered that I should be sure of the constancy of my supply as, of course, a road would have to be constructed to the head ! ! Small wonder that I hid up for the next day or two immersed in more official duties ; that I spent hours committing the one-inch map of the district to memory, and that I abstained from all cigarettes and drinks in order that I, at least, might not have the usual delicious poisons arrayed in the scale against me at such a time ! (I never went back to the former, but have enjoyed perpetual recourse to the latter in celebration of my triumph over it ever since !). In due season, I emerged cautiously from my nervous funk, ready to tackle the great task, and one morning, early, I collected haversack-rations, maps, compasses, rod, sample and geologist, and bundling them all into my truck, reluctantly drove north. I also embarked Cæsar and Brutus, our adopted desert dogs, as, being mad half the time, these were first-rate in the dispersal of unwanted audiences.

As the person most concerned, it is very difficult for me to tell you impartially all that happened that day. I only know that I tried to put into effect most of the personal rules of work that I had found suited to myself. For instance, I tried to prospect the area, as far as possible, from south to north. I was extremely careful not to tire myself with much walking on any particular stretch ; and resolutely ignoring the very existence of the thoroughly alarmed geologist, I determined my line of march in advance by " sweeping " the horizon for lateral emanation with the left arm as detector ; the pendulum recording in the right hand. With these rough-and-ready tactics some of you will agree, and some disagree. But for all the excellent rules and gadgets devised by our betters, when on the spot one can only pursue the performance which by trial and error seems to work with oneself. I remember being particularly worried about my depthing, which, I may confess, has been a not infrequent cause of shame to me. It was my neurosis about being unable to assess depth accurately that so filled me with gloom when I registered overwhelmingly powerful reactions with a depthing of only twenty-three feet. This ridiculous depth was useless for the quantities we were looking for, I told myself, especially as we had come to the base of a hill where only gnats and beginners find water ! Also, immediately before us, was somebody's enterprising attempt to start a pistacia grove : withered, waterless stumps. Despite my reactions, I said nothing to my geologist colleague for some time, but trailed off rather desperately in other directions for something that might feel more sane, he trotting dutifully behind me. But sure enough, I was bound always to be led by a single twelve-foot band back to the original pressure-point at its head. Throwing all caution to the winds, and committing myself to the gods, I naughtily added another

twenty feet on to my depth, and delivered my verdict to Geology with a final, sepulchral sort of voice. He inclined his head resignedly, and confided to me that, scientifically speaking, although the whole area left him completely in the dark for any sign of water possibilities, there was one thing of which he was certain, and that was that the spot I had selected had the least possibilities for water of all those we had seen.

There was in the Middle East at that time but one boring section of R.E.s, and they were concentrated on the bank of a raging Euphrates in full flood, striving to secure with piles the one precious pontoon bridge against the torrent. One crew with its rig, capable of an 800-foot bore, had nevertheless been posted to us for urgent duty. Somehow, they toiled their rig over the broken country that same afternoon to the fateful spot, and commenced there and then their unpromising descent. Until three on the following afternoon I was left in an agony of mind that only you can appreciate, during which not even a whisper came through to me from Muslimeyer. I was about to telephone to the D.C.R.E.'s office for news, when I turned and found him standing in the doorway in person, the geologist standing behind him. Never have I striven to read two faces so anxiously as then. And I think when Geology grinned a friendly assurance and the Colonel snarled "Congratulations," I came as near to nervous breakdown as I have ever been, and I noticed to my intense disgust that they both receded in a mist. This Society does not work for any monuments, but it may be some recompense to our arts that the official local maps and place-names of North Syria to-day mark at least one "Sebille Latham" in areas formerly charted as desert wastes. I would add that news of this adventure somehow trickled back home, but the matter was too much bound up with security at the time for an attempted Parliamentary question to proceed without hindrance. It remains to say of this bore that the rod had detected a lucky faulting which, on being tapped at twenty-six feet, released a highly potable water, which rose to within eighteen feet and resisted the most vigorous pumping tests to lower its recovery at that level. And there were trees dead of drought below this! The road was duly built from the bore, well over a mile to the nearest track linking the outside world, and in a very short time bath-houses and a mobile laundry appeared, with a water-tank carrier company attached to service the more widely dispersed formations, so that the desert began to take the form of one of those mushroom gold-mining towns. Much the same sort of thing happened at three other border points the most interesting being on the Antioch road at Bokha, to the north of Lattakia on the coast. Here dowsing was more pleasant, one's bands leading over the tobacco plantations, or through shallow ravines of fig and oleander. On this occasion (August,

1943) half the planning staff of G.H.Q. were present, and a Geological Section of the South African Forces (the only Force far-sighted enough to be equipped with such a unit) had already prospected part of the area with instruments. There was, in the main, a general agreement between rod and instrument as to the plan of available water, but the resistivity machine did seem to have serious limitations in its inability to discriminate between deep, potable supply and mere superficial seepage.

This, Ladies and Gentlemen, concludes our long trek this afternoon, and I thank you for the patience with which you have borne such a wealth of detail, and what must have seemed much diversion. I hope you will not think any of it really germane to the issue, as it was essential for you to appreciate to the full the atmosphere under which the rod served in the field. If I have succeeded ever so little in this, I am content. I conclude by taking the opportunity of thanking our President, who kept up a heartening correspondence with myself in the name of this Society throughout the war. His letters, and the regular arrival of the *Journal* in Syria, Egypt and Arabia, were the influences which kept my faith in the Society's cause during some pretty dispiriting days. Other work, such as that at Aden and in the Arabian Desert, was for civilian authority, although done on active service. It will, therefore, with your permission, form the subject of a separate address upon the proper occasion.

NOTE.—The lecture was illustrated by maps and photographs of the territory covered.

SCIENCE AND THE DIVINING ROD

BY. CHARLES DAVEY

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The British Society of Dowsers, which held its annual meeting last week, watches over the ancient craft of water-divining with a forked twig or rod. Dowsing has only lately gained serious attention, after a long period of scepticism by scientists who seldom based their judgment on personal experiment. The change owes most to the pioneer work of Maby and Franklin, whose massive volume, *The Physics of the Divining Rod*, was published in 1939 and is now out of print. They brought a great deal of carefully tested evidence to show that the movement of the rod, when the dowser walks over a stream, is caused by a slight change of tone in the arm-muscles, and that this is due to radiation (or possibly a field effect) from the stream. The rod serves merely to amplify and make visible the muscular reaction. There is nothing psychic about it: the radiation can be detected also by electrical instruments.

The divining-rod will move for a good many people; but to use it reliably for water-finding requires considerable training. The phenomena are influenced by weather changes and magnetic conditions; interference may come from electric power-cables or from masses of metal in the neighbourhood. The doubtful reputation of dowsing is partly due to the practice of it by persons who have not troubled to acquire the necessary experience and skill.

The rod can be used also for detecting buried minerals and static water—underground pools and lakes. In fact, the evidence is coming to suggest that most substances, including living tissues, give off radiations which suitable dowsing methods can detect. If an object is moving, a stronger additional effect—the "flow field"—is produced. During the war Maby and Franklin experimented with an electrical instrument which responded to approaching aircraft in a way not explicable on orthodox grounds. Their work showed promise under official tests, until it was overshadowed by the swift progress of radar. (The difference is that a radar station sends out a pulse of radiation and records its echo from the moving object; a dowsing detector responds to a radiation emitted by the object itself).

The exact nature of this radiation is still obscure. A stream can be dowsed through many feet of soil and rock, and normally such remarkable penetrating power is associated only with very hard radiations, of the cosmic ray type. One possibility is that dowsing radiations are secondary effects of cosmic rays: they may represent a response by material objects to that cosmic ray bombardment which goes on everywhere all the time.

Dowsing research is still at an early stage; the boundaries of the subject are not yet clearly mapped. They seem to embrace various diverse phenomena which have attracted attention independently. One important link is with medicine; here the first steps were taken by a man of eccentric gifts, Dr. Albert Abrams of San Francisco. In the early nineteen-twenties he showed that if a healthy person, the "subject," is connected through a special circuit with a person suffering from some disease, the subject's abdominal muscles undergo a change of tone, demonstrable by percussion when the circuit is tuned to a particular frequency characteristic of the disease. Having listed the frequencies of numerous diseases and found them constant, Abrams used his circuit for diagnosis, trying a succession of frequencies until the reaction occurred. Strangely, it occurred only when the "subject" stood facing west—one of many indications that dowsing phenomena are connected with the earth's polar field. Later, Abrams used similar methods for treating patients, chiefly by exposing them to counteracting radiations.

There has been a great deal of quite justified controversy about Abrams; but in this country the Horder Committee, after investi-

gating a deveopment of the method worked out by Dr. W. E. Boyd, of Edinburgh, reported in 1925 that the abdominal reaction undoubtedly occurred (Lord Horder, acting as " subject," felt it himself), and that " the nature, the significance, and the practical application of the facts here brought to light must be studied fully." There is now in London a Medical Society for the Study of Radiesthesia with a membership of qualified doctors ; it holds meetings, issues a journal, and is generally engaged in exploring the whole complex subject of radiations given off by the body and its organs in health and disease. I would hazard a guess that by the end of the century this new, difficult, but very promising branch of medicine will be widely and successfully employed.

The idea that every organ, disease, and drug has a specific radiation gains support from various lines of dowsing research, notably from unpublished work by Maby, who finds that the chemical elements can be identified by dowsing under certain conditions. Each element gives its recognition signal, so to speak, at a particular point of the compass (I am leaving out many details), and the signals come in round the circle in an order corresponding to atomic weights. Again the connection with the earth's polarity is shown.

I have space to mention only one other phenomenon, the strangest of all. Certain sensitive instruments are found to respond both to ordinary dowsing stimuli, such as moving objects, and to acts of thought. There may be a link here with Rhine's " psycho-kinetic effect "—the very slight but statistically indicated response of mechanically thrown dice to mental directions by spectators.

All this sounds very odd, but I feel sure of one thing : from the ancient craft of the divining-rod there are now branching out many promising lines of research which deserve support. The field is wide and fertile ; at present the labourers are few.

EXPERIMENTS IN HOLLAND

Dr. S. W. Tromp, of Leiden, has sent us a first report on " Scientific experiments with divining rods on the influence of variations in the strength of magnetic fields (in particular the magnetic field of the earth) on muscular contraction."

I. Dr. Tromp is a geologist and had always been interested in experiments, but had been extremely sceptical till 1940, when he obtained reactions with a loop-shaped steel rod, always having failed previously to get any response with a wooden rod.

An extensive study of physiological literature on muscular contraction showed him that the influence of magnetic fields

on nerves and on muscular contraction did not appear to have been studied experimentally.

The experiments described in the report were, for the most part, carried out in the physical and physiological laboratories at Leiden with the assistance of Heer van der Starre and Heer de Groot, chief technical assistants of the physical and physiological laboratories respectively, a few taking place in the laboratory of technical physics at Delft.

The instruments used consisted of a rod of flexible spiral steel wire, a tangent galvanometer of 50 cm. radius and a single electric coil to create artificial magnetic fields, and an Einthoven string galvanometer for registering potentials and induction currents in the rod.

II. The first series of experiments was carried out with the tangent galvanometer at a place where no reactions with the rod were found. Variations in the magnetic field were made by changing the direction of the current and by altering the angle of the axis of the galvanometer. Four persons, including Dr. Tromp, acted as dowsers, but one of them, Heer van der Starre, did not respond to the artificial magnetic field when using the steel rod, but only to underground pipes and wires in the laboratory.

Put briefly, the results noted were as follows :—

1. No reactions at all were felt if the ends of the wire were encased in ebonite handles.

2. It was found that sensitivity was increased by straining the muscles; by reducing the resistance between the wire and the skin of the hands; by wearing shoes which were good insulators, i.e., rubber soled; by walking rapidly.

3. If the branches of the rod were connected by copper wire just in front of the hands, or if one branch was earthed by a copper wire, reactions were weakened. This experiment with (2) above suggests that the conductivity of the hands and electrical potentials in the wire were involved.

4. When the dowser was standing in front of the galvanometer connected with an electric switch, an interval occurred between the turning on of the current and the reaction, which depended on the dowser's sensitivity and the degree of insulation of his shoes.

5. Disturbance in the magnetic field was caused by the proximity of human beings. The reaction was hardly perceptible when three persons were standing in front of the galvanometer.

6. The dowser standing blindfolded in front of the galvanometer could feel changes in the magnetic field when the ring of the galvanometer was turned through a right angle, i.e., from the vertical to the horizontal.

7. The occurrence of muscular fatigue was observed during the experiments, so that after twenty trials or more the dowser was unable to register correctly.

8. When the dowser walked nearly parallel to the face of the ring of the galvanometer, the current being broken without the dowser's knowledge, errors in reaction were frequent after the first five trials, due probably partly to fatigue and partly to slow response.

Better results were obtained when the current was constant and only the position of the magnetic field changed by altering the angle of the ring of the galvanometer.

9. The extent of the magnetic field could be observed when the dowser walked parallel to the face of the ring of the galvanometer. Near it, the diameter of the field was about 130 cm. and at a distance of about 230 cm., where the field strength at the axis would be about .001 gauss, the diameter was about 350cm. (The horizontal component of the earth's magnetic field in Holland was .184 gauss in 1920). As the influence of the field of the galvanometer could be felt further than 230 cm., the sensitivity of the average dowser is probably such that variations of less than a milligauss (.001) can be felt. It appears that sensitivity depended more on the gradient than on the field strength.

10. During the above experiments on the extent of the magnetic field it was observed that,

(*a*) Reactions did not change when the current in the galvanometer was increased, supporting the assumption that they depended rather on the gradient than the strength of the field.

(*b*) The dowser in approaching the galvanometer obtained a reaction at a certain spot, but if he moved backwards and again approached, the reaction occurred earlier. This would happen four or five times, after which the reactions would occur at the same spot, the position of which depended on the degree of contraction of the muscles, the distance from the galvanometer increasing with stronger contraction of the muscles.

11. Dowsers with smooth dry skin in the palms of the hands were observed to be non-sensitive (resistance about 10^6 ohms), but several felt a reaction after washing their hands in a salt solution reducing the resistance to below 50,000 ohms. Few women appeared to be sensitive to magnetic influence.

12. The direction of current in the galvanometer made no difference to the results.

13. Several dowsers showed consistently that on entering the magnetic field either the left hand or right hand comes up. In some cases the active hand depended on whether the cause of the magnetic disturbance was on the right or left side, the hand nearer the source moving downwards.

14. When the dowser moved towards and at right angles to the face of the ring of the galvanometer, the rod tended to move

downwards, but upwards when he moved in the opposite direction.

15. The sensitivity of the dowser varied with his personal condition and with the time of day and between before and after meals; alcoholic drink decreased sensitivity.

16. When the galvanometer was placed on the floor to the right of the dowser and he walked in a direction parallel to the face of the ring, the rod turned with the right hand moving downwards. Above the ring, the rod became horizontal; with the ring on the left side, the left hand moved downwards.

III. Experiments with an Einthoven string galvanometer were carried out in the physiological laboratory by Heer van de Starre, Heer Franken and Heer de Groot, the technical inventor of the string galvanometer, and Dr. Tromp, and a number of electro-cardiograms were made.

Some observations were as follows:—

1. The dowser using a metal rod with insulating handles got no reactions when crossing a zone of influence. No induction currents or potentials were registered by the galvanometer when the terminals were connected to the two sides of the rod.

2. (*a*) The terminals of the galvanometer being connected to metal grips fastened over the pulse in each wrist, the dowser sat relaxed in a chair without a rod.

(*b*) With the same aggrangement, the rod was held by the insulating handles.

(*c*) The circuit was made—terminal of galvanometer to left branch of rod, thick copper wire from right branch of rod to right pulse, left pulse to other terminal of galvanometer.

A typical heart diagram was obtained in all three cases, but small peaks caused by muscular action currents appeared in the electro-cardiograms of (*b*) and (*c*).

3. In a room in the laboratory a rectangular strip about two metres wide was traced with the rod and outlined in chalk on the floor, the point of maximal effect being marked. (The influence was due to an underground sewer).

The following experiments were carried out:—

(*a*) The dowser stood outside the strip, connections having been made as in 2 (*c*) above.

(*b*) The dowser moved slowly towards the middle of the strip and at right angles to it. No movement of the rod took place owing to the insulated grips.

(*c*) The dowser moved along the strip with a similar result.

The electro-cardiograms showed irregular high peaks when the zone of influence was entered, the highest being at the point of maximal effect.

This reaction was reported both with sensitives and non-sensitives, the experiments being repeated many times. These

abnormalities did not appear if the dowser was very tired and if the shoes were wet, proving that the phenomenon is not an ordinary psycho-galvanic reflex.

(*a*) When a 24-second diagram was taken with the dowser standing still outside the zone of influence, all the Q peaks were on the same level. When he was standing inside the zone, a potential was induced in the wire amounting to a few millivolts.

IV. In a tentative explanation the author advances that the phenomena are physiological and physical and not parapsychological. He remarks that

1. The human body, particularly the nerves in the palms of the hands and arms, are unable to register a magnetic field as such, but only variations in the gradient.

2. The effects of the insulating handles, the greater sensitivity caused by washing the hands in electrolytes, the experiments with the shunt of copper wire and with the terminals attached direct to the rod indicate that varying electric potentials in the rod and conductivity between the skin and the rod are required for producing reactions of the rod.

3. Experiments by Hinsdale, Krakow, Kolisko and Pfeiffer with plant cells and crystallizing organic fluids show that organic bodies are far more sensitive to electro-chemical influences than any known physical instruments; certain stimulating substances in solution could be registered even at concentrations of 10^{-30}.

4. The electrical potentials of the human body are concentrated on the surface of the skin, and vary with individuals with different parts of the body, and with the time of day. They are influenced by mental conditions such as depression and fatigue.

5. Many physiological processes are responsible for these skin potentials, the most important being:

(*a*) Diffusion potentials in the organic cells (less than 10mV.).

(*b*) Membrane potentials, due to the organic membranes in cells and ionic movements.

(*c*) Contractions of the heart chambers.

(*d*) The blood stream; electrolytes running through narrow tubes encounter considerable resistance with the creation of diaphragm currents. The movement of fluids containing iron in the magnetic field of the earth might create electric fields even without diaphragm phenomena. Hæmoglobin contains 4 per cent. of hæmochromogen which is 9 per cent. iron.

(*e*) Action currents created by muscular contractions.

(*f*) Electric potentials created by the cells of the human brain registered by the electro-encephalograph, showing strong evidence of sex differences in the oscillations of the electro-encephalogram.

(*g*) Electrical impulses created by the peripheral parts of the nerves in the skin. Experiments indicate that these are very high, attaining over 100V. with charges of 10^{-8} coulombs.

The different experiments with rods seem to indicate that any induction current of not less than 10^{-6} amp. is able to create impulses in our nerves causing contraction of muscles.

Movement through the magnetic field of the earth causes considerable induction potentials, due to:

1. Changes in the electrical capacity of the body.
2. Variations in the amount of electrical charge lost from the body owing to
   (*a*) differences in ionisation of the air inside and outside zones of influence;
   (*b*) varying conductivity of the surface of the earth due to geological and atmospheric causes, e.g., inversion of earth potential below thunderstorms.
3. Probable creation of direct induction currents arising from action currents in the nerves and muscles moving in a magnetic field.

To enable these potentials to affect the nerves the chief requirement is a resistivity of the skin of not more than 50,000 ohms.

The use of the electrocardiograph with the rod with insulating handles excludes the possibility of suggestion. The rod acting as a very sensitive amplifier enables the galvanometer to register very weak potentials.

V. Dr. Tromp then summarises the causes of failure in the use of the rod as a geo-physical instrument, such as varying conductivity of the skin, varying amount of electrical charge lost from the body through the feet and other parts of the body, varying effect of the zones of influence on the electrical capacity of the body through the presence of vegetation in particular of trees and their roots, direction of movement of the body the zones of influence, propinquity of other persons, slow reaction response and fatigue in the arm muscles, varying conductivity of the nerves, varying sensitivity of the reaction centre (central nervous system and brain).

VI. He mentions the precautions to be taken during dowsing experiments, such as keeping the resistance between the hands and the rod as low as possible by salt solutions, avoiding people and trees, working in suitable weather and at suitable times with reference to meals.

He distinguishes two kinds of dowsing influences, namely, 'Local,' which include underground streams, pipes, caves, geological faults, power stations, &c., and 'Regional,' due to areas with a diameter up to several kilometres, observable on land above surface or sub-surface zones and large igneous massifs, and on sea above fault blocks and basalt flows as in the Red Sea area and the Gulf of Aden.

VII. Dr. Tromp also describes some experiments over human beings :

1. The dowser moving sideways in a direction parallel to a recumbent subject from feet to head with the left hand nearest the head, in the case of a male subject the left hand comes up first, near the middle of the body both hands are even, near the head the right hand comes up first.

Moving on the other side of the subject with the left hand nearest the head the right side of the rod comes up near the feet and the left hand near the head.

The movements are reversed when the subject is a female and sometimes when the subject is a boy.

2. The same reactions can be obtained from the couch, table or other piece of furniture on which the subject has been lying for many hours, or even days afterwards, as if an electro-magnetic deformation had taken place in it as a result of the close contact of the living body. If the piece of furniture is well earthed this secondary reaction does not take place.

3. To exclude the possibility of suggestion the potentials of the rod with the insulating handles were measured with the string galvanometer connections having been made as in III, 2 (*c*).

The dowser moved parallel to the table but outside the zone of influence and then inside the zone ; in the latter case peaks were recorded in the cardiogram.

When the experiment was repeated with a recumbent person on the table complicated records were obtained which differed according as to whether the dowser was moving at right angles or parallel to the length of the body, the greatest effect being near the head.

After the subject had left the table weak disturbances were recorded in the cardiogram for some time afterwards when the rod was above the table.

4. When the dowser stood still near the subject or with the rod above his head, a considerable rise and fall in the graph was recorded in a 24-second cardiogram, corresponding to a large change in the potentials of the circuit.

5. When this experiment was repeated first above the feet, then the middle of the body and finally the head, the string of the galvanometer not being regulated, in moving from the feet towards the head a sudden change in the general level of the graph was recorded, being in the case of males higher for the head and lower for the feet, and the opposite in the case of females, the level near the middle of the body being normal in both cases.

By way of explanation, the author suggests that the human body, and probably every living body, is surrounded by an electro-magnetic aura which induces a field in surrounding objects,

a conclusion which is supported by biological evidence, particularly by the experiments of H. S. Burr on plants and animals.

A person lying on the mattress of a bed with a metal frame can be compared to an electrical condenser, the insulator being the mattress with a resistance of more than 10^7 ohms. The upper plate (human body) is charged, the lower one (metal bed) is earthed. When the bed is vacated the metal frame discharges, but a residual charge will remain for some time.

Comments

It is satisfactory to know that a geologist has undertaken an investigation in a scientific manner, even though his conclusions cannot be regarded as in any way final. In fact, since the above account was written an appendix has been received, which shows that Dr. Tromp had already had to modify some of his opinions. For instance, he has found that non-conducting material, such as whalebone, can be used as a rod, and that " therefore the influence of insulated grips (handles) is not observable if the grips are immovably connected with a conductor."

However, from the original experiments recorded in 16 heads under II it would appear that the conditions created by an artificial magnetic field inside a laboratory are different from those experienced by the dowser in the field. It is a well-known fact, proved by vast and prolonged experience, that in general insulation from the ground, electrical contact between the hands and the rod, the material of the rod, low resistance of the palms of the hand are matters of entire indifference, and that women are as sensitive as men, though other observations such as those under paras 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13-16 would probably be endorsed by most dowsers.

The experiments under III are interesting in that they appear to show the true objectivity of the reactions.

As regards IV, Dr. Tromp states in the appendix that the turning of the rod occurs through the contraction of the arm muscles caused directly or indirectly in the muscular nerves " by local or regional variations in the magnetic field of the earth created both by dia- or para-magnetic bodies at the same time acting as non-conductors or conductors with respect to electrical phenomena. . . . The action currents for the nerve stimulus are created either directly through magnetic induction in the nerves or indirectly through changes of the electric charges of the potentials of the skin."

The author therefore insists on a magnetic field as the primary cause, but would this explain the action of a single-handed instrument such as the angle rod ? It would not account for other phenomena which the dowser experiences, such as the recurrent R bands on each side of an elongated conductor, which are obviously due to some further electro-magnetic cause.

The experiments under VII are of interest as supporting the phenomena of male and female polarity and of *rémanence*, though the author's explanation of the latter is open to question.

To comment in further detail at present would perhaps be out of place, as the author is going to publish a complete study at the end of 1947 under the title " Physical and physiological causes of dowsing phenomena."

In the meanwhile, let us congratulate him on his enterprise in taking up a form of research which most scientists prefer to avoid. A.H.B.

NOTES FROM A DOWSER'S DIARY

By PHILIP CHAPMAN, M.INST.H. E.

My first real interest in dowsing started after I had bought a large area of land and needed water. There was a rooted idea that the head man of the Bedouins was able to indicate where fresh water would be found, so I took his advice; much to my cost.

Well No. 1 was 22 feet to water level and, on test, the water was 3½ salinity, plus manganese, and other objectionable ingredients.

Well No. 2, at another site, was completely dry at 40 feet.

Well No. 3, at another site, was dug to 60 feet, and produced brackish water that only sheep would drink, and was completely unsuitable for vegetation or human consumption. I then heard of the B.S.D., and joined, full of hope that I had solved my difficulties, perhaps. I also bought the small book by De France, and set to work to learn how to dowse for water.

The rod was a whalebone one and was useless in my hands, as I felt that it was possibly intentional, when it moved, so I abandoned it and started on a Pendulum. With this I was more successful, and was able to ascertain that the wells I had dug reacted to what was, or was not, in them by using samples of water.

I thought I had located a fresh water supply, but hesitated to put my findings into operation, as I was leaving for England shortly and hoped to take some lessons. I had found out the length of the cord of the pendulum and also why the rod seemed to cheat my object. It was much too long and too stiff. I shaved it thinner with a safety razor blade, and made it only twelve inches long. Then it worked satisfactorily.

I was fortunate in being in England at the time of the Summer Meeting at Mr. Konig's house in Buckingham in 1938, and contacted Major Pogson, Colonel Edwards and others. Before leaving for Egypt, I took some lessons from Major Pogson with

his motorscope, and also from Macbeth with the pendulum (Turrenne's). This I found too lively for me, and I went back to my plain one of black wood on a white cord.

On my return, I again tried out with the motorscope the site I had formerly selected, and got similar results.

Well No. 4. I had located a site, nowhere near any of the others, at 17½ metres to water level (about 56 feet) and water-bearing ground about three feet deep. I checked by sample and colour test before digging, and then anxiously awaited the result. Much to my surprise, I was correct after allowing 10 per cent. for possible clay seams. Then the war started, and I had to abandon all development. It is now working very satisfactorily. During the six years of war I could only practise at home in my spare time, so took up medical and food-testing dowsing.

I found this far and away more satisfactory than water finding, as I could check my findings and instantly prove whether I was correct.

I tested every food, whether raw, cooked, tinned or bottled, as well as drinks and medicines, to find out whether at that time they were suitable or not, and became so extremely sensitive with the pendulum that I only had to point at them from a distance to pick out a blown tin of fish among several. When opened, there was not the slightest doubt.

After thousands of tests, I find that certain foods and drinks are not always suitable, and conclude it means that either what I have already eaten does not harmonise with the next course or my state of health has varied. I never eat or drink what my pendulum tells me is unsuitable, and have much to be thankful for, as this country has more than its share of flies and germs.

My method of procedure is as follows: Where possible, I hold the tin or bottle in my left hand, and, a few inches to the side, the pendulum in my right hand. It will then do one of four things: rotate clockwise, beat towards the article being tested, rotate anti-clockwise, or remain quite still as though being held down straight. My findings are as follows:—

Clockwise rotation—suitable or in harmony.
Beat (neutral)—neither good not bad.
Anti-clockwise—unsuitable at the time.
Dead still—definitely poisonous.

When fruit is defective in parts, it is easy to test the bad parts by placing the first finger of the left hand over a particular spot and then watch what the pendulum does By removing the bad part, the remainder of the fruit can be eaten, if suitable. At certain times and on certain days oranges, grapefruit, plums, strawberries, tomatoes, &c., are definitely unsuitable. Cucumber and radish can be eaten at night if the pendulum says so, but lettuce does not always agree with some people.

If the food is on your plate, point at it and hold the pendulum in your lap, just level with the table, and find out which portion does not suit you at the time. It may be only a small part of the fat is a bit tainted.

For medicine I adopt the same method, except that I find the dose required. When you see that the dose is from one to three tablets, marked on the label, of a supposed cure, take one tablet in the left hand and hold the pendulum at the side; if it beats, place another tablet in the hand and, if it still beats, place a third or a fourth until the dose is indicated at that time.

For liquid doses like chlorodyne, where from 5 to 15 is mentioned as the number of drops, pour five into the glass and test again, then add three or four more until the correct number makes the pendulum rotate clockwise. That is your dose at that time. Later, it may be more or less.

Some years ago I had a bad attack of fever and had forgotten to take precautions beforehand. After recovering, I needed a tonic of some sort, so went to a drugstore and asked for a particular brand of tonic.

I produced my small pendulum, and it immediately began to rotate anti-clockwise, so I asked for another make. This just made the pendulum beat backwards and forwards, so I asked for something else. As this made the pendulum rotate rapidly clockwise, I asked what was the difference between that and the first one. The chemist, who had stood with wide-open eyes, said, "The first one has arsenic in it, and the last one has not; but what are you supposed to be doing."

When I told him "this little bead tells me more correctly what is suitable much better than you can," he instantly became a potential dowser, and wanted information. He is now quite good at dowsing, but cannot, or will not, appreciate that I pick up the rays from the contents to find out if they are good for me.

I have to wear glasses to tell me where to tread and to read with, but as my "tummy" has no eyes, I use the pendulum so that it can tell me what is good to take and what is not, and it has never let me down yet.

Do not take all the statements on proprietary medicines as the absolute truth, as there has not yet been found anything that will cure all ailments. Most of the propaganda telling us to eat or drink a particular thing to acquire good health is invariably put out by those who wish to sell the article. Trust your pendulum, and you will not go far wrong once you have learned to use it correctly.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND DOWSING

By GUY UNDERWOOD

Part I

As this article is addressed primarily to dowsers, and as it deals with a supposed relationship between their art and one of an entirely dissimilar nature, it is desirable to say something about the latter.

Many people take a dim view of archæologists, alleging that they consist exclusively of old gentlemen engaged in interminable controversies, in which they contradict each other flatly on matters in which neither can prove his case, the weapons on both sides consisting entirely of suppositions!

This is not entirely true. There are two kinds of archæologists —the "student" and the "field" archæologist. The field archæologist does the work, and makes all the discoveries. The student sits at home in comfort and contradicts him. I am a field archæologist!

Archæology is the study of antiquity. It is a fascinating occupation. It is too fascinating, and for the last two years I have done practically nothing else than dig, survey and record, and study in stuffy libraries.

I would strongly urge others not to allow themselves to be enticed into taking any part in it. The first piece of prehistoric pottery they find, or the first bone discovered in a tumulus (which they will assume to be part of the anatomy of some long-forgotten hero, but which will more probably be goat or some other domestic animal!), will infect them. All their well-earned leisure will then, like mine, be sacrificed to a pursuit in which whatever they may discover can never be of any practical use to anybody.

My own entanglement in archaeology was involuntary. A few years ago I found, entirely by chance, a prehistoric site known as the Budbury Circle, in the town in which I live.

The local Council wished to build on it; I tried to persuade them to build elsewhere; many archæologists backed me up; local politicians joined in; and ultimately the site was built on.

In the mêlée that ensued, I found myself the centre of contesting interests in which any protagonist short of an adversary, or not daring to attack a more important one, seemed to aim a blow at me!

I emerged with a thick skin and some knowledge of prehistory. Fortunately, or unfortunately, I knew of another interesting site, and since then have been a prey to archæology.

Archæology is mostly concerned with those periods of time of which little or no written records exist—that is to say, the prehistoric periods. In this country, these periods are those preceding the Roman occupation.

The only evidences available to the archæologist in this country consist of a few implements, weapons, potsherds and bones, and the rough structures in which they are found. Any attempt, therefore, with such materials only, to re-construct the history, religion, manners and customs of the peoples of vast unrecorded ages is far beyond our reach. All that is likely to be discovered consists of petty details, mere traces of man's existence, of little historical value.

This does not seem to deter the archæologist, but unless some wider approach is adopted, it would appear improbable that our knowledge of antiquity can be greatly increased.

Some knowledge can, however, be obtained from comparative archæology, owing to the affinity of the prehistoric cultures and religions of this country with those of other parts of prehistoric Europe. All appear to have had a common derivation from Egypt and Mesopotamia, whence they spread up the Danube and along the Mediterranean basin, ultimately reaching this country.

One of the mysteries, which has inspired much erudite speculation among antiquaries, is that of the location, arrangement and design of the prehistoric Stone Circles, Long Barrows and Round Barrows. They are usually referred to as "sacred sites."*

As to location, there is no obvious visible factor common to all that will provide an explanation as to why they are placed where they are.

Long Barrows.—These are enormous oval burial mounds, sometimes over 300ft. long. They are usually on heights, but sometimes not. The date of erection of these is usually placed as between 2500 and 1900 B.C., that is to say, during the last half of the Neolithic (or late Stone Age) period.

They have the peculiarity that the larger end is, in the great majority of cases, directed towards the East. This orientation may vary from a few degrees E. of N. in one case to a few degrees E. of S. in another. The ancient peoples were quite capable of orienting these mounds precisely—what then was the consideration so paramount as to lead them to vary their sacred orientation ?

* It should be noted that these stone circles and barrows are not Druidical remains. The Druids were Celtic priests who came into prominence in this country a few hundred years before the Roman occupation, and about 2,000 years after many of these structures were built. There are indications however, that the Druid religion was a continuation, with probable variations of that of the Neolithic and Bronze Age peoples, and that they used the temples,of their predecessors.

Why also, if they were of so great importance as appears, are they not all sited in the most prominent positions ?

Stone Circles.—The dates of the Stone Circles are about the same as the long barrows, but some may have been built somewhat later, and there is evidence that others, for example Stonehenge, have been altered and partially re-designed at later dates. The sites of circles also vary in their heights, most are high but some, for instance Stanton Barrow, Avebury and Long Meg, are in low-lying situations.

Most Stone Circles have outlying stones, clearly related in some way to the circle, the significance of which is a complete mystery. At Stonehenge there are two " Station Stones," lying N.W. and S.E. of the circle. Somewhat similar stones are found at Woodhenge, Stanton Drew, and many others.

Round Barrows.—These are almost all of the Bronze Age, 1900 B.C. to 500 B.C. They are found at all heights and are often found in groups forming straggling lines. Why ?

Attempts have been made to explain these peculiarities on astronomical grounds, or by alignments, but nothing appears to have carried conviction except in the minds of the propounders of the theories.

It is clear that, having regard to the enormous labour of erecting these great monuments they must have been regarded as of the highest importance. It follows that their locations are unlikely to have been haphazard or arbitrary, and that some cogent reason must have decided it. This reason must have formed an important integral part in the prehistoric religion. If that reason can be discovered, it would provide a far-reaching addition to our knowledge of prehistory. The object of this article is to submit facts which appear to have some bearing upon this.

Archæology is an art rather than a science—its basic principles are conclusions seldom capable of complete proof. New ideas are not welcomed in it any more than in the other arts, and possibly less. In the great art of medicine all the most significant advances—antiseptics, vaccination, anæsthetics, etc.—were strenuously opposed, and sometimes not fully accepted until after the death of their discoverers, who were often subjected to misrepresentation and abuse. Nothing infuriates a little learning so much as greater knowledge !

It will be seen, therefore, that anyone who ventures to put forward a new idea needs courage. If, in addition, he attempts to entangle the venerated art with a proposition, so much disparaged and derided by the less intelligent of our intelligentsia, as water-divining, he takes a course at which the stoutest heart might quail.

A famous archæologist, at the peak of his career, who held the views which are set out in this article, did not venture to announce his heresy to the great learned Societies of which he was a distinguished member. Instead, he made it to our small Society, knowing that sooner or later it would be investigated; but also knowing that this investigation was unlikely to take place until a time when any resulting commotion would not worry him. If he had done otherwise, he would have become involved in a controversy such as would have embittered the remainder of his life. As a result, facts of the greatest importance to archæological research were temporarily smothered.

I will now produce the evidence.

M. Louis Merle

So far as I am aware, the first archæologist to call attention to the apparent association of underground streams with prehistoric sites was M. Louis Merle of Capdenac, Aveyron, France.

His book on the subject, *Radiesthésie et Préhistoire*, published privately in 1933, is a pattern for protagonists, short and simple, and gives nearly forty scale drawings of sites, showing clearly the courses which are taken by the streams which he alleges are associated with the remains. Anyone able to dowse should be able to verify the statements without difficulty.

1. *Burial Mounds.*—He states that prehistoric burial mounds in France are always located in the *fork* caused by the junction or crossing of two or more underground streams, and are usually enclosed by three or more such streams.

2. *Menhirs.*—These are solitary standing stones of large size, sometimes called monoliths. He says (*a*) That these are placed in the fork of two underground streams, which are also crossed at or near their intersection by another stream.

(*b*) That if the menhirs have one smooth side then this side will face the junction, and

(*c*) That if the three streams cross at the same point, then the stone will be vertical, but if one crosses between the junction of the others and the stone, then the stone will lean away from the junction, and if one crosses beyond the junction, then the stone will lean towards the junction.

3. *Alignments.*—He states that the celebrated stone alignments of Carnac, Morbihan, are set between roughly parallel streams, and that any branching or connection with another stream is indicated by a stone of larger size than the others. He gives a plan of Carnac, and also of linear mounds at Reilhac, Lot, where he states that the mounds follow the lines of a complex of streams.

As to menhirs, it seems likely that many such supposed monoliths may be solitary remnants of former stone circles or of burial chambers.

If menhirs were, in fact, boundary marks, as is generally supposed, they would be more likely to be placed at the exact intersection of the streams rather than at some distance away. The leaning of the stones and the alleged smooth sides could be due to age or other causes.

In a later book, *Les Sourciers et les Monuments Mégalithiques* by Chas. Diot, published privately, 1935, the author confirms M. Merle's observations. He becomes mystical and adds little that appears to be useful.

Captain F. L. M. Boothby, R.N.

In 1935 a similar discovery was made, apparently quite independently, by Captain F. L. M. Boothby, C.B.E., R.N., a member of the British Society of Dowsers, who contributed a short article on the subject to the *Journal* (*B.S.D.J.*, II, 115).

Captain Boothby was interested in the water supplies of the great prehistoric camps existing in many parts of the country. Some of these would need 5,000 men or more to defend them, and with the men would be their families and animals. Such a congregation would be likely to need about 10,000 gallons of water a day to keep them alive.

Few of these camps show any surface indications of wells, and the usual explanation given is that they relied upon dew-ponds. To anyone with knowledge of the possible supplies from dew-ponds, such an explanation is absurd. Others allege that sieges, contrary to historical records such as the siege of Troy, etc., were unknown in those times,* and that warfare consisted in a short sharp attack, after which, if it failed, the attackers presumably called it a day, and went off home!

There is no reason to suppose that our ancestors had less common sense than we have, and it must have been obvious that, having got their enemies onto the top of a high hill on which there were no adequate water supplies, all they had to do was to wait until the defenders were thirsty enough to surrender!

It is unlikely, also, that the defenders would have put themselves into such a position. They must therefore have made wells, and all that is necessary to prove it is to dig until they are found. Some wells have been found—for example at Maiden Castle—and Aubrey states that a spring existed within the

* *Earthwork of England*, by A. Hadrian Allcroft, 1908; page 210.

Badbury Rings. The difficulty in finding these wells is largely due to the ancient method of storing grain. This was in pits, belling out as they got deeper, dug into the earth. In some camps hundreds of these pits have been found, and the reason suggested for this large number is that fungi made it impossible to use them more than once or twice, as otherwise the grain would spoil. The surface indication of such filled up pits cannot be distinguished from those of filled up wells.

Captain Boothby states that in pursuit of information on this matter, he called on the Curator of the Dorchester Museum, and found him excavating a tumulus. He proceeds as follows:— "Having a rod with me, I tried it on the tumulus and found a spring ran through its centre. I followed up the clue, and have now tested tumuli of every type, including the long barrows, and find that they are all over springs. The long barrows mostly lie in a direction N.E. to S.W., and the springs run the full length. Several tumuli are often sited on one spring."

He then investigated Stonehenge. "There it was found that a spring runs right through the ruins, under the altar stone, slaughter stone and hele stone, and away down the Avenue, where I have yet to follow it up." . . . "As regards Silbury Hill—the enormous artificial hill which has been excavated on several occasions without result—several springs cross beneath it." He asked that other dowsers would make experiments to confirm his observations, but apparently none did so.

In *Water Divining* by Theodore Besterman, p. 93, the author quotes a letter to him from Captain Boothby, dated March, 1937, in which he says: "The most interesting work I have done in England was in connection with tumuli and ancient monuments. It was found that all tumuli tested have been erected over springs. Stonehenge and Woodhenge are also on an elaborate system of springs. It seems probable that this has some religious significance. Plans of the system of springs on part of Salisbury Plain are with Colonel Bell and the Curator of Salisbury Museum, if you require them."

It is a pity that Captain Boothby, in common with some other dowsers, refers to underground streams as "springs." A spring is the place where an underground stream emerges. This is, however, a minor point, and his contribution to the subject is great. (1) His statement that barrows are located over underground streams anticipates and agrees with that of later observers. (2) He states that in the case of "long barrows" these streams usually run their full length—in other words, that they are aligned upon them. And (3) That "several barrows are often sited on one spring," which explains the straggling lines of round barrows so often found on Salisbury Plain and elsewhere.

Reginald Allender Smith

All those who have made a study of antiquity are familiar with the name of Reginald Smith. He was a famous archæologist, author of many papers on the subject, and the leading authority on prehistoric implements. His reputation was world-wide and extended wherever prehistory was studied. He is still quoted as an authority. For many years he was Keeper of the British and Mediæval antiquities at the British Museum, and was Director of the Society of Antiquaries.

He was a somewhat dour and reserved Lancastrian—he did not suffer fools gladly—but could be most kind and helpful to a student who, before asking questions, had taken the trouble to learn something about the subject (a rare circumstance!). He retired from the Museum in 1938, and died on the 18th January, 1940. He was not a man likely to put forward any important proposition, on his own special subject of prehistory, unless certain of the grounds for his conclusions.

Towards the end of his career he began to take less interest in his formerly beloved flints, partly owing to the continual empty contradictions which are a depressing feature of modern archæological research, and partly, no doubt, owing to the fact that this part of archæology appears to be at stalemate—all possible useful information likely to be squeezed from such objects having already been extracted.

He began, therefore, to turn his attention to a wider aspect of prehistory, and to explore phenomena which he had noticed on his many visits to prehistoric sites in this country. His observations of these phenomena were the subject of a lecture given by him to the Society on February 15th, 1939, which was published in *B.S.D.J.*, III, 348.

He prefaced his remarks with words to the effect that he had no expectation that what he had to say would be accepted by archæologists for a generation. The following are quotations from his lecture:—

"Every religion has a special use for water."

"Long Barrows . . . are not necessarily watermarks, as consecrated sites on account of underground water."

Notgrove Long Barrow. "In the middle of its long axis was a domed chamber with a burial on its floor and a blind spring* exactly at the centre."

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* By a "blind spring" is meant a stream of water rising through a vertical fissure, from a lower to a higher impermeable stratum, and there taking another course or courses without penetrating to the surface of the ground.

"Wayland's Smithy, Berks, is on the same principle."

"The Rollright Circle has a central blind spring."

"The next cases form a group of earthworks on the same general lines (as Rollright) . . . All of them have blind springs in the exact centre and were therefore holy places; they can be classed as temples. . . . Arbor Low, Derbyshire; The Stripple Stones of Blisland, Cornwall; Burrington Combe Gap, Somerset; The Thornborough Rings, Yorkshire; Figsbury near Salisbury; Mayburgh and King Arthur's Round Table, near Penrith; Maunbury Rings, Dorchester." He also mentioned blind springs at Stanton Harcourt, Oxon, and Long Meg and her Daughters, Little Salkeld and four at Avebury.

As to Stonehenge—"Precisely at the centre, a few feet in front of the altar stone, is a hidden spring from which flow three streams."

"Woodhenge . . . in the centre of a blind spring is revealed by dowsing, and from it flows two streams Northward, threading their way between, not under, the closely grouped sockets."

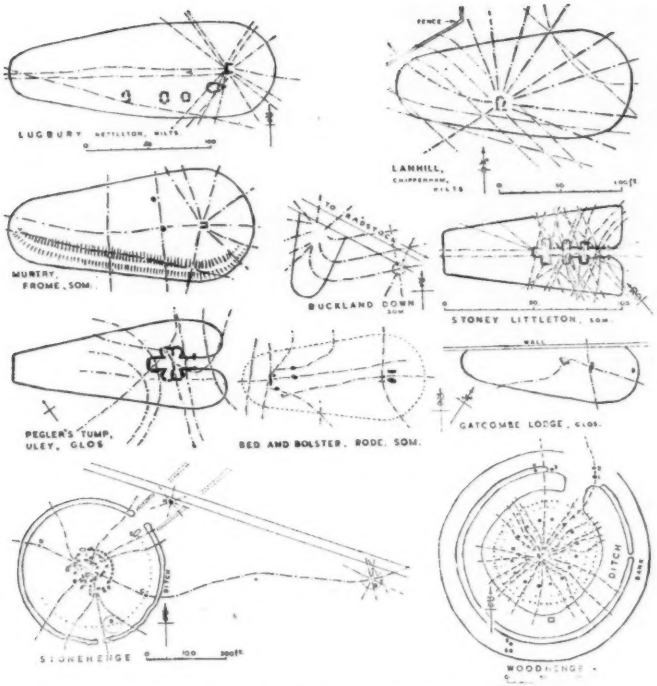
"The Sanctuary, near Avebury . . . dowsing reveals a blind spring in the centre."

"The constant presence of underground water at the exact centre of these earthworks and circles is a significant feature easily verifiable by others in the field. If this be allowed as intentional . . . the selection of sites for consecration no longer appears arbitrary, but dictated largely by geological conditions."

M. Merle's observations as to French prehistoric mounds differ from those of Mr. Reginald Smith and Captain Boothby in this country. Both of the latter state that sacred sites here are situated directly over streams, and not in the fork of converging streams. If M. Merle's statements are verified, it would appear that the prehistoric religion in France differed in this respect from that in this country. All of them agree, however, that such sites in both countries are located at places where peculiar complexes of underground streams exist.

My Observations

A few years ago I made investigations into some of the alleged phenomena of dowsing, with a view to separating them into flocks of reliable sheep and unveracious goats! Included in these tests were the observations of Boothby and Smith. I visited a number of ancient sites for this purpose and found that their statements were confirmed in all cases. Sketch plans of some of the sites visited are given in the illustration.



The courses of underground streams are shown by broken lines. Stones are indicated in black, except Stonehenge, where standing stones are in black and others in outline.

With regard to the sites illustrated.

Long Barrows

Lugbury, Littleton, near Chippenham, Wilts.—This is a characteristic long barrow, about 180ft. x 75ft. It has a clear example of a "blind spring" in its East end, over which the primary burial chamber has been erected. It is also interesting for being aligned E - W over parallel streams, running its full length, a feature found in several other barrows. Most of the transverse streams, of which there are many, have been omitted for clearness. As to the four secondary burial chambers on the south side—the most easterly one is crossed by four streams. The other three are practically free from streams, although surrounded by them. See Merle's observations as to barrows in Brittany. Secondary chambers are unlikely to be earlier than the primary,

and are usually later. Many of the Bronze Age invaders, who supplanted the neolithic people in this country, came from Brittany.

Only the primary chamber is now visible, and the remains consist of three stones, standing about 7ft. above ground. One of them is 12ft. long. A measured survey of the site has been made, showing all streams.

Lanhill Barrow, near Chippenham, Wilts.—This is an unusual long barrow, as the primary chamber is in the middle of the mound and not at the east end, as is more usual. The blind spring is clearly seen. Most of the transverse streams are shown, and the parallelism, irregular spacing and difference in angle suggests that they are rock fissures caused by seismic waves coming from at least two directions. Rough survey by pacing only.

Murtry, near Frome.—This site appears in the Ordnance map as " stones," but has the appearance of being a much-damaged long barrow. The blind spring is clear. It has two standing stones over the centre of the spring. One of these is 9ft. above ground. Surveyed by pacing.

Buckland, near Frome.—Blind spring is clear. Rough survey by pacing.

Stoney Littleton, near Wellow, Somerset.—This is the finest example of a chambered passage-grave long barrow in this country. The parallel lengthwise streams are clear, and there appear to be several blind springs with centres between these streams. The barrow is aligned upon the parallel streams, which lie N.E. - S.W. Carefully surveyed by measurement. Some unimportant streams omitted for clearness. Scale plan available, showing all streams.

Hetty Pegler's Tump, Uley, Gloucester.—A very fine example of chambered barrow. Superficial survey only. A blind spring appears to be located at the centre of the cluster of burial chambers.

Bed and Bolster, Rode, Somerset.—This site is almost destroyed, but some stones remain. It is given because of the two lengthwise streams. Appears in the Ordnance map as " Burial ground." Rough survey only.

Gatcombe Lodge.—Long barrow. Stream traverses two burial chambers. Not completely surveyed.

Winterbourne Stoke.—Long barrow. Not illustrated. This barrow is about 300ft. long and about 15ft. high, built of chalk. It is about 1½ miles S.W. of Stonehenge. It is aligned on two parallel streams running S.W. - N.E., and has a blind spring with about 10 radiating streams under its N.E. end, which is the larger. It is very similar to Lugbury.

Jug's Grave, Farleigh.—Not illustrated. This is a newly discovered barrow, of the end of the Stone Age or beginning of the Bronze Age. A central primary burial chamber, or "cist" was found containing skeletons. In the body of the mount, outside the cist, there were a number of secondary burials in the manner peculiar to the late stone age (neolithic period). The primary cist was enclosed within streams, but not crossed by any. The other burials were all at points where streams intersected.

This barrow is surrounded by a number of enclosures, amounting to about 15 acres, which are themselves bounded by long mounds, usually called "Celtic field divisions." These were possibly originally stone walls.

These enclosures are remarkable, as they do not appear ever to have been ploughed, but to have been left derelict since the site was finally deserted and allowed to return to forest. In these enclosures the courses of the streams after leaving the barrows are marked by large stones set at intervals in, and level with, the ground, and particularly at any intersections. In some cases these stones extend for a distance of over 100 yards. Surveys are being made, and I hope to publish the results shortly.

The other barrows on the site exhibit similar peculiarities, and are now being excavated and surveyed. All are on blind springs.

Circles

Woodhenge.—This is an ancient temple, and originally consisted of a number of concentric circles of wooden posts. It is generally supposed to be older than Stonehenge. It was discovered from the air in 1925 by Squadron Leader Insall, V.C. It is one of the most important of modern discoveries, and an example of what may result when new methods are applied to old subjects. It has been fully excavated, and concrete stumps mark the position of the old post-holes. The 60 stumps of the outer ring make it easy to survey and to check the streams shown.

There are two blind springs, one under the centre and the other under the grave near the centre; in the grave the bones of a child were found. There are 20 radiating streams, and about the same number of transverse streams. The latter are not shown in the drawing, for reasons of clearness. A survey has been made.

Stonehenge.—The complication of the streams here is extreme and cannot be shown in a small illustration. Only the principal streams (observed on a casual visit some years ago) are shown, therefore. It has now been more fully surveyed, but by pacing only, and a scale plan prepared. There are about 30 radiating streams and a large number of transverse fissures.

There are two blind springs, one under the altar stone, and another a few feet in front of it, in the centre of the circles.

It will be noticed that a stream passes under the two " station stones," C and D, and under the centre of the circle, and leads on to the barrow about 150 years east of the monument. This barrow is located on crossing streams, as is usual with round barrows. The Hele Stone H is also on crossing streams, as shown. One stream, not shown, appears to connect the Hele stone with stone D and another to run from it to the barrow within the circle.

The immense number of fissures here make it difficult to follow and record the exact course of particular streams, especially the transverse streams. The radiating streams are more easy to follow.

Round Barrows

I have so far examined only one group—that at Winterbourne Stoke, on Salisbury Plain, near Stonehenge. Here there are about 20 barrows. The centres of all of those examined were at points where several water-bearing fissures cross, and all barrows appeared to be connected to each other by streams. About 10 of them are in an almost straight line, from the long barrow, in a N.E. direction, and all these appear to be on one stream and at points where other streams cross it. I was told, locally, that another dowser had surveyed this and other nearby groups, presumably Captain Boothby.

Boundary Stones and Miscellaneous

It is often impossible to say from visual evidence only whether any large single standing stone (called *Menhirs* or monoliths) is or is not a solitary remnant of some larger structure. It is generally accepted, however, that where they do exist they are boundary marks, similar to the stone pillars known as *hermae* in Greece. All ancient stone boundary marks that I have found have been related to underground streams.

The " Three Shires Stones," on the Foss Way, five miles north of Bath, were erected, or re-erected, about 100 years ago on an older site. They are on the crossing point of three streams, one of which crosses the road at right angles and the others diagonally south of it.

The Long Stone, Minchinhampton, Gloucester.—This stone is said to run round the field at midnight. It is also said that if children are passed through a hole that is in it they will be cured of rickets ! It is on a blind spring, and is probably the remains of a burial chamber.

Bathford Hill, Bath.—There is a footpath along the top edge of the Avon valley, running from the " Dry Arch " about one mile beyond Bathford and five from Bath. It leads past a tower called Brown's Folly, and then bends east towards Box.

It runs for about a mile. On the east side of this path there is an old stone wall, which marks the boundary between Wiltshire and Somerset. In this wall are set, at irregular intervals, large stones, half buried in the earth. Other large stones are in the open West of the wall. There are about 20 of these stones, many of which are shown on the 6in. Ordnance map. Each marks an underground stream.

This is a lovely walk, 500ft. above the river and overlooking three great valleys and the city of Bath. It is well worth a visit, apart from its dowsing interest.

Similar walls exist, a few miles away, at Warleigh and Freshford, also on the boundary. I hope to deal more fully with boundary marks in a future article.

Archaeological Dowsing

It will be noticed that at Woodhenge and Stonehenge many more streams were found than were reported by Boothby and Smith. I use, however, rods more suitable for indicating the weaker reactions than they used, and would recommend others to use sensitive rods for this purpose so as to get all the streams. With such rods the centres of stream bands can be located within a few inches. A good rod can be made from two knitting needles and a piece of wire, and is described elsewhere in this issue. If a twig is used I would recommend one of thin whalebone.

There are over 30,000 barrows in this country (L. V. Grinsell, *The Ancient Burial-Mounds of England*, p. 1), so that there is ample scope for those wishing to test these things. There are also numerous stone circles, dolmens, &c., at all of which the characteristics described should be present.

Generally speaking, all rock formations in this country, especially the limestone and the chalk, are much fissured by seismic disturbances. The fissures are roughly parallel with each other and at right angles to the direction of the siesmic waves causing them. If they are waterbearing, the courses of these fissures can be traced easily by dowsing. They can be distinguished from what the dowser calls " parallels " by the fact that they are not at equal distances apart. In surveying some of the sites mentioned, these parallel reactions were very noticeable, and seem to indicate that all the streams are in rock fissures.

It is significant that the great majority, if not all, of " sacred sites " in this country are located where a rock subsoil, usually limestone and chalk, exists near the surface. It is difficult to imagine how a blind spring could exist, and persist, in any other than a rock formation.

Substantial underground streams are seldom near the surface. In the limestone district, with which I am most familiar, the depth to water is usually over 100ft. There are, therefore, no surface indications.

The primary facts of dowsing are not universally accepted and are sometimes denied strenuously by people who have made no proper investigation into them. The task of anyone wishing to put forward any proposition involving dowsing is therefore made doubly difficult by some dowsers, who make assertions of apparently miraculous phenomena, of which they may have heard or read, but which they have not tested properly. When put to the test, they fail. They thus disprove their own cases, bring dowsing into disrepute, and create a body of opponents among the very people whose opinions are most respected, and who could be the most valuable in establishing the facts. A good example is the following incident:—

When I first became convinced of the truth of Reginald Smith's theory, I thought it wise to look round for an expert archæologist who was also an expert physicist. Such a man should be capable of reliable judgment on both subjects. At last I found such an individual, and wrote a tactful letter. He replied in a most friendly way, but said that he could not accept the alleged facts of dowsing. His reasons were that some years previously a well-known dowser visited his excavations, and, among other things, claimed that by the use of coloured rods he could indicate the presence of buried metal objects. The dowser said that violet-coloured rods would indicate bronze. He proceeds: "To put his claim to the test, I excavated in his presence several large and deep holes . . . where he claimed bronze existed. No evidence was forthcoming, and he finally agreed that his claims could not be substantiated." A valuable recruit was thus lost to dowsing, and a weighty opponent created.

I have done my best to state the facts in such a way that they can be proved or disproved indisputably. I have little expectation that, even when proved, they will be generally accepted by archaeology for many years.

The attitude of the pundits is reminiscent of that ascribed to Dr. Jowett, under whose portrait an undergraduate wrote the affectionately scoffing inscription:—

I am the Master of this College;
And what I don't know is not knowledge!

The facts, however, are so strong that, in the end, like the Darwinian theory, they cannot fail to be generally accepted.

Sooner or later, some broad-minded antiquary, with weight on the councils of the mighty, will investigate the facts set out here, and will bring them to the notice of his brother dignitaries in so persuasive, or compelling, a manner that some will accept them. Such a storm will then arise among the archæological tea-cups as will, I think, be long remembered!

To be continued.

PART TWO

MEDICINE IN THE ELECTRONIC AGE

Note of a lecture delivered to the Society on March 5th, 1947

BY MICHAEL ASH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.A.NAT.SC., CANTAB., B.A., PSYCHOLOGY

Nerves are like insulated electric cables. When an impulse passes down a nerve, it is like a wave. The point reached by this wave is negative electrically, and the rest of the nerve is positive. So a galvanometer testing the nerve will show current running first one way and then the other as the wave passes from one end of the nerve to the other. Here is thus a basis for alternating current and its accompanying magnetic field.

This nervous set-up is upset by alterations in outside magnetic fields. This can be shown by testing the effect of electric currents on the twitching of the muscles of the hand. These twitchings can be magnified by holding a water divining rod or a pendulum.

When a constant direct current is running, the muscular twitch is observed when it is switched off. It is change in current that gives a magnetic field, and it is to this that the human nerves and muscles respond.

While an alternating current is running, the twitching continues. This twitching response can be reproduced artificially by pressure on the ulnar nerve at the elbow. Resting the limb on the " funny bone " can cause the fingers to twitch up towards the thumb, and this moves anything held.

But the normal stimulus to this response is the slight tingle felt in the heel of the hand, when any electro-magnetic radiation, such as heat, is detected. A tingle is felt at the base of the neck when this reflex is working strongly.

We can call this the *Ulnar Nerve Reflex* or Dowsing reflex. The stimulus is a " Field " change. The response is a muscular twitch. The nerve pathway is from the sensitive skin of the hand, up the arm to the base of the neck and down again to the muscles of the hand.

In the eye there is a matching reflex, which is the basis of dress design and colour. If a girl wants you to see her blue eyes she wears blue. You see this colour on her dress and immediately pick out all the colours that match it, and your eyes light upon hers.

The hand shows this same matching reflex, and automatically gropes towards anything matching the sample of electro-magnetic radiation to be matched up. This can be shown by teaching the blind to match colours with their hands. They can learn to recognise the feel of the fire and of the same warmth coming from living bodies. They can hold one of the primary colours and pick out the one that matches it. I tried one day on two

blind men I met in a cafe. I got them both to hold an ash-tray that was green and put before them a salad bowl filled with cucumber and lettuce; a dish of red jam; a plate of yellow butter; and a piece of blue material. Their hands shot out and hit one another on the salad bowl, first shot.

The week before I had discovered this reflex on a recently blinded man, for whom officially nothing more could be done. At the first lesson he was able to define the limits of the cottage fire; then the warmth from a girls legs in front of the fire; then the warmth of others in the room.

He then learnt to match wools; came out into the street and felt the beam off a lamp post, and walked straight up and touched it. He then felt the glow off flint cottages reflecting the evening sun. The village pond felt like cool breezes against his fingers. He defined the limits of this pond. Then, miracle of miracles: Up by Downe House, Darwin's old home, there was a puddle on the far side of the road. I asked him what there was on the road. He held his hand up in the direction indicated and moved it gently, and said: "*There is a puddle on the road.*"

Long years ago, Dr. Darwin had said: "Oh that we had a sense of detecting electricity and magnetism." We have this sense waiting to be developed up by practice The only people who trouble to use it are the water diviners and dowsers. But why shouldn't the blind be taught to see with their hands like the water diviner does?

All our sensitivity to the universe around us, is just patterns of impulses coming up our nerves. We have learnt to recognise the various tingles on our eyes as colour, and we can in the same way learn to recognise the language of the tingles felt in our hands. Let us concentrate on these for a moment. If they are the cause of the Dowsing reflex,let us see if we can feel a tingle in our hands at the point where a dowser gets a reflex. He gets his reflex at about a foot from a living person. We move our hand away from a body and, sure enough, we come to a shell we can feel around the person about a foot away from them. There is another shell further out and so on. The person now resembles a Proton; a solid central lump with shells of a lighter form of energy around. The whole being may be vast.

The distance out of this first shell of energy round the body is of great importance in medicine. It gives some indication of physical vitality. It can be measured as a distance through space by a very sensitive hand. It can be felt by moving the hand above a metal rule held by the patient. The patient also feels a tingle when the specific point is found. It is as if a spark passes at this distance apart, and this sparking can actually be seen like that between two carbon electrodes in a carbon arc lamp.

Hold the hands in a bright light with a black background and with concealed lighting, such as black-out material over the lampshade. Movements of the fingers of the hands held slightly apart shows a stream like wisps of smoke joining the two hands. The spectrum seen is blue, red and violet. As the hands are moved further apart, the stream breaks and the discharge returns to look like a flame round the finger tips. This breaking point may be the one felt as a tingle. I have only just recently seen this energy coming from the finger tips, but I have been measuring it for years. I first used its effect on making peas sprout to demonstrate it.

We are slowly combusting like the embers of a fire, and we have a slight radiant flame unless we are saints, when we blaze into a halo.

Our combustion efficiency can be detected by measuring this aura or electronic-shell distance. We can make it wax or wane by supplying exactly what the combustion process needs or the reverse. Let us take vitamin deficiency and feeding problems. The right vitamin increases the distance, and the others are ineffective. The right dose gives the maximum effect, and too much reduces it again. So we can now pinpoint medical practice and find exactly what each individual needs to make him healthy.

Vaccines can now be specific in quantity as well as quality. We can now measure the effect on vitality of our modern chemotherapy, whereas before we could only observe the destructive efficiency on micro-organisms. We can now check *dosage*. We can also pinpoint diagnosis anatomically and check the effect on vitality of treatment such as manipulation. We can measure the "Field" over the spine, and find it changed where there is a lesion in the segment of the body supplied by the spinal and sympathetic circuit tested. When we have corrected this lesion, the "Field" is restored to normal. The spinal segments seem to be represented on the hand, and readings from the finger tips can be compared with those of the opposite side, to give some indication of the segment of the body involved.

We will soon have an "electronic brain" to do our medical work for us and to harness this natural force, just as we have taken lightning out of the skies and used it in our houses. For the tingle we can feel on our hands can be seen as a kick on a galvanometer or electroscope; as an oscillation on a television screen; as a crackle on a radio aerial and set; as a note on an electrical gramophone pick-up.

But far more important, the whole purpose of life seems to be harmony with natural providence. Just as the diviner finds what he seeks, so can we use this sense with which we are all endowed to find the right thing at the right time. Here is perfect wealth, health and happiness.

MAINTAINING HEALTH AND VITALITY

BY. V. D. WETHERED

Since I wrote the article on "Some Effects of Earth Rays," which appeared in the December number of *Radio-Perception*, I have carried out a few further experiments which may be of some interest. First, when subjected to these rays, I tried out the effects of colours on my vitality. "wave" or radiation as measured on a simple wooden rule. I was rather surprised to find that black gave the highest readings, with white a close second. I carried out this simple experiment by putting a sputum sample at the left side end of the rule, holding each coloured ribbon in the right hand in turn, and finding the balance point with the pendulum in my left hand. I should add that, in my experience, anything which increases this reading has proved to be beneficial. The vitality wave taken at any one time will depend on the person tested and the surrounding conditions, if these are not stabilised. But it is the *relative* readings which matter, the effects being similar, as I believe, to those registered on the Bovis Biometre.

I decided to find the effect, if any, of several different materials. I particularly wanted to test out black material, and obtained some of the well-known "black-out" variety. I measured the vitality wave or radiation either by wearing the material, sitting on it, or placing it under my chair. With a normal reading of 50 (I use a 100cm. rule), these are my results :—

SITTING ON		UNDER CHAIR	
Black material	55	Grey alpaca coat	56
Newspaper	56		
Magazines	60	Coil of wire in right-hand pocket	58
Thick art paper.....	50	Plastic material in left-hand pocket	58
Grey alpaca coat	56	Compass in right-hand pocket	57
Navy blue raincoat	52	Compass in left-hand pocket	43
WORN			
Black business coat	58		
Blue blazer.....	47		
Cardigan	55		
Yellow woollen waistcoat	50		
Grey alpaca coat	56		
Bowler hat	54		

The last four readings will not surprise those familiar with the excellent work on polarity carried out by Dr. Ernest Martin.

It will be observed that the beneficial effect appears to be the same whether the material is worn, sat on, or placed under the chair, as tested with the alpaca coat. Possibly the good effect of this coat was due to the texture or make-up of the material, as grey flannel did not give good results. Incidentally, the bowler hat reading was quite genuine. We must conclude that the results have nothing to do with direct screening from vertical rays. It is, no doubt, more a question of correcting body polarity.

I next tested the effect of these materials on the sympathetic nervous system, which was reading plus, due to the effect of the adverse subterranean influences (see my previous article). The normal reading for this on my scale is 50, and sympathetic actually measured 55. For testing out sympathetic I always use liquid adrenalin. An adrenalin-like substance is secreted at the nerve ends of the sympathetic nervous system. Here are the effects of the different materials tested :—

Sitting on		Under Chair	
Thick art paper.....	55	Grey alpaca coat	50
Newspaper	53		
Magazines	50	Coil of wire in right-hand pocket	50
Black-out material.....	50	Plastic material in left-hand pocket.....	50
Grey alpaca coat	50	Compass in right - hand pocket	53
Blue raincoat	54	Compass in left - hand pocket	57
Blue blazer	55		
Worn			
Black business coat	50		
Bowler hat	50		
Yellow woollen waistcoat	58		
Grey alpaca coat	50		

It will be seen, therefore, that several of these materials have at least a measurable clinical effect, reducing sympathetic to normal. It will be observed that different kinds of paper gave different results, evidently depending on the texture. Of the readings given above, those for the blue blazer are notably bad, possibly due to the dye it contains. These simple tests were undertaken at odd moments when time and circumstances permitted, and should not be accepted too literally. At the same time they do, I think, serve to demonstrate what a great force " dynamism," as Dr. Herbert A. Roberts calls it, is in the human economy, and with what truth the body can be likened to a wireless set.

Although the tests suggest that the effects of earth rays can be neutralised by employing such materials, in my experience the results are clinically somewhat disappointing. They can undoubtedly reduce the effects and prolong one's resistance to them, but where the influence is, for instance, all over a house,

the bad effects are both operative and cumulative. Continuous subjection to them may lead eventually to acute nervous depletion. Probably ionising effects of the surrounding air are persistently undermining the constitution. Results may be different when only a local bad spot, such as an underground stream, is involved. Probably, also, the severity of the influences can vary considerably owing to the contributing factors in any one case.

Polarity and Personal Effects

It is but a step from the phenomena considered to turn to the effects of what we generally carry in our pockets. These items, such as knife, watch, keys, money, etc., nearly all have their influence on body polarity and nervous energy, although they may, to a large extent, cancel each other out. As a matter of interest, however, I tested out several common objects placed first in a right-hand pocket and then in a left-hand pocket, either in coat or trousers. These tests have nothing to do with earth rays, and were carried out in normal surroundings. These are the results, normal vitality reading at the time being 45 :—

	Right-hand	*Left-hand*
Keys	54	45
Knife	50	42
Copper coins.....	50	48
Silver coins	45	45
Fountain pen	42	42
Compass.....	58	42
Pocket watch	54	42
Lighter	40	40

The actual figures are not important, but I think the general tendencies may be taken as correct. With some materials or objects one obtains a more definite and stronger oscillation at the balance point than with others. In any case, tests of this kind should be made a number of times before final acceptance. Objects in the nature of an electrical conductor appear to have a beneficial effect on vitality when worn or carried on the right side. For some reason, the materials of which the fountain pen and lighter are made seem to be detrimental.

I next made a test with copper coins in right-hand pocket, keys and knife in left, which gave a reading of 42, but transfer of the knife to the right-hand side brought the reading up to 57. The resistance of the nervous system to adverse influences is well seen by a compass, for example, which will increase the vitality reading by 28 per cent. when carried on the right, but only depresses it by 7 per cent. when carried on the left.

I then put, out of curiosity, some Nux Vomica 3x tablets in first my right and then my left hand pocket, and got a reading of 40 in each case. I certainly assumed that I was not requiring Nux Vomica at the time. Opium 3x, on the other hand, gave

a reading of 50 in each case, and if taken internally would presumably have been beneficial. With both drugs placed together in each pocket in turn the reading was 45, indicating that, being respectively stimulant and sedative, they cancelled each other out.

A common cure for rheumatism and similar ailments is said to be a nutmeg "carried with your cash." So, on another occasion I carried out the following experiments:—

Normal reading—47

	Right-hand pocket	*Left-hand pocket*
Nutmegs	46	44
Presumably nutmegs carried by themselves are harmful.		
Copper coins.....	50	45
Copper coins with nutmegs.....	60	47

Thus the reading for nutmegs carried with copper coins in the right-hand pocket appears to support the theory as to cure. Silver appears to be neutral in polarising effect, and gave a reading when silver coins were carried alone in both right-hand and left-hand pockets of 47. With nutmegs carried with the silver coins the results were 44 for right-hand pocket and 46 for left-hand pocket. These figures are similar to those for nutmegs carried alone, although, curiously enough, they are reversed.

To ensure good health and protection against adverse influences, one can postulate that one's vitality wave should be brought slightly above the normal. Indeed, curative effects may be produced by increasing it to a relatively high level. But, in the writer's experience, it is possible to have too much of this energising influence, which is recognised by a certain jumpiness and nerviness. An initial 15 per cent. increase in the vitality reading as compared with normal should, one thinks, be sufficient to protect one's health.

One might summarise the position by suggesting that when a knife is carried it should be kept in a right-hand pocket, which will probably cancel any depolarising influences of other personal effects. Likewise, a compass, when carried, should be kept on the right side. A coil of short insulated wire, say about 21in. in length, carried on the right side, may likewise add to the general level of good health and protect the system against de-energising influences. It should be stressed that the tabulated matter given in this article is only intended as an indication of the sort of thing which can be expected. The personal factor must influence actual readings, which may show wide variations at differet times. In the last analysis, dependence should always be laid on individual tests.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

33 Cleveland Square,
W.2.

2.5.47.

Dear Colonel Bell,

I regret the delay in answering Dr. Dudley d'A. Wright's letter published in the March issue of the *Journal*.

The experiments as regards the current carrying capacity of nerves have, as far as I am aware, only been carried out with the Ulnar nerve, and the data were published by the University of Frankfurt on Main. I am of the opinion that all nerves, and, in particular, the Median nerve, carry considerable quantities of current, but I do not know that any data as regards other nerves have been published.

The "subversive statement" that we think only with our Pia Mater is based on investigations carried out by me, and I expect to be in a position before long to convince even the most orthodox Professors that this statement of mine is correct.

So far, I have been unable to take the measurements of Francis Bacon. The reading of Shakespeare, 525° Biometric, was obtained from Shakespeare's signature.

Yours sincerely,

OSCAR BRUNLER

Hazely, Tring, Herts.
25th April, 1947

Dear Colonel Bell,

You will probably have several reports of auto-suggestive experiments suggested by the paragraph on "Word samples" at the top of page 159 of the March *Journal*. Here is my experience, if you care to include it in the next issue.

I had for the past twelve months frequently suffered excruciating pain in the right heel, part, no doubt, to the referred pain of osteo-arthritis of the right hip, from which I had suffered for many years.

Immediately on reading the above-named paragraph, on March 18th, after a day of bad intermittent attacks, I wrote the generic term PAIN-KILLER in block letters on a card and put it in my left breast pocket.

The pain at once left me, and I have not had it since (now 38 days), except for a temporary return on the 28th day of the experiment, soon passing. I have discontinued the Veganins and other medical pain-killers I had been taking regularly, and hope to dispense with them in future.

Auto-suggestion, of course, and another simple instance of the power of the Unconscious Mind over the body, which the doctors know is a main element in their cures.

It was suggested to me that it might be better to write letters to my Unconscious Mind than just to give it a label to work on. I have done both, and written a series of letters to my U.M., leading me into the deepest mysteries of Mind and Nature, asking many questions, not expecting answers, even in dreams.

This is the first time I have tried auto-suggestion on myself, and it was a surprise to me to find I was amenable to it.

Yours sincerely,

ARTHUR MACDONALD

17*th May*, 1947.

Dear Colonel Bell,

The chief difficulty experienced by beginners is to put the rod into a state of equilibrium, and to keep it so. It cannot be seen whether it is in such a condition or not, and some people never acquire the knack. This applies both to the twig and to the Oasis and other similar rods.

Members may therefore be interested in a rod with which the answer to the question of equilibrium is visual. In its simplest form it can be made with two plastic knitting needles, size 10 or 12, such as are sold at Woolworth's, a wire paper clip, thin string and a piece of india-rubber.

A loop is made in each end of the paper clip, and to each of these loops another loop, about 1in. long, of thin string or strong thread is attached. The needles are inserted through the string loops as far as the knobs. Two small pieces of rubber are cut out and threaded on the needles, to within ½in. of the knobs, so as to keep the loops in place.

The best way to hold the rod is with the needles horizontal and in line with each other with one knob above the other and with the hands palm down. The left needle is grasped close to the knob, and the right about 6in. away from the knob. The wire link is then raised to a vertical position, and a downward pressure applied by the right-hand rod. So long as the link remains pressed by the right-hand rod against the left it is in equilibrium. When completed and in use the two rods should be 1½in. to 2in. apart from each other.

I find it sensitive and instantaneous in action. It is very useful for following streams. I used a rod of this type in surveying most of the ancient monuments mentioned in this number. It is possible to trace the course of a stream, by walking to and

fro diagonally across it, at quite a good pace, the rod giving a good strong nod every time the dowser crosses the stream band.

In appearance it is not unlike the Flop Rod, illustrated in the *B.S.D.J.*, June, 1945, but with a left handle and hinge added.

It can be made of any flexible material, but the knitting needles are easiest to get. I hope to give an illustration in the next number of the *Journal*.

Yours sincerely,

GUY UNDERWOOD

REVIEWS

ÉLÉMENTS DE PHYSIQUE CORPUSCULAIRE

By R. Vanson; Maison de la Radiesthésie

The theme of this book is based on the existence of the corpuscular radiation which is emitted by all radio-active materials and is aroused in other substances probably through the actions of cosmic radiation.*

Most of the physical and mathematical formulæ are correctly given, though sometimes wrongly applied.

The author's assumption that the initial corpuscular velocity is constant, and that, in consequence, all the corpuscles have the same range when ejected from the same material, is not in accordance with the usually accepted theory that the initial velocities vary over a wide number of values.

The experiments based on this assumption, the results of which are much used throughout the book, appear to have little validity in consequence.

From the dowser's point of view, the book is disappointing, for the authors assume that the dowsing reaction is due only to a change in density of the corpuscles. And later, using their probably invalid experimental data, they prove to their own satisfaction that *only* water can be detected by dowsing and that metals of all kinds cannot be found by its means.

This is palpably erroneous, and is due to starting from wrong premises. T.B.F.

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* See *Physics of the Divining Rod*, pages 78-80, 177-9, 385, 394, 399, &c.

February, 1947.

Pendulums: The advantages of each kind. Silver ball recommended for beginners. By R. Robert.

Vitamins: Biometre and Lesourd Rule both show their close relationship to human radiations. Vitamins can be selected according to human temperament. They syntonise with spectral colours. By XXX.

Medical Diagnosis and Treatment by Pendulum: A case controlled by doctors. By Calté.

A Colour Tester: Based on geometrical form (R.p.T. sells the cards of the Rule, 4/6 post free). By F. Servranx.

The Rod: Advantage of glass tube enclosing witness. By M. Perreaux.

Map-Reading Technique and the Usefulness of a Stand keeping Photographs Vertical. By M. Perreaux.

Telepathy's Close Connection with Radiesthesia. By H. Meier.

Colour Diagnosis: A review. By V. Mertens.

March, 1947.

Archaeology: An account of a pendulum research showing the former roads of Belgium. By M. J. Dejond.

Dental Radiesthesia: Its usefulness described. By H. Meier.

Geological Data: A guide to. (Part I). By "Vulcain."

A Criticism of Present Progress. By Vicomte Henry de France.

Salesmanship: Intuition guided by the pendulum. By W. Herrinckx.

Positive and Negative Earth Zones: Favouring and handicapping plant and animal life. By J. Calté.

Colour Radiesthesia. Part II. By V. Mertens.

Thought Reading Helped by Pendulum. By Paul Jonckheere.

Francois Gramenia of Annecy has been awarded Fr. 50,000 for having indicated by map-reading the spot in the Alps where the dead body of a climber would be found.

April, 1947.

Tendencies and Nature of Pigeons: A method of test. Described by R.p.T.

Corpuscular Physics: A review of the writer's own book, "*Eléments de Physique Corpusculaire.*" The problem viewed as a wave process by Turenne is considered in the light of corpuscular theory. By R. Vanson and J. Calu.

Man Astronomically Diagnosed: A reproduction of a disc, similar to Turenne's, showing the human form bent round the centre. Correct medical diagnosis is claimed to follow from the use of this disc.

Detective Technique : Part I. How to operate by pendulum when examining a case. By Herrinckx.

Criticism of Methods : A letter from Emile Christophe.

Homeopathic Dilutions : Their remedies assessed by a numerical gauge, the method being applicable to other substances. By J. Servranx.

Divination and Help Obtainable from a Pendulum with the Use of Witness Words. By " Conjonctio."

Divination : Telling cards by a pendulum. The cards must be old, so as to be impregnated by the thoughts of previous players. By J. Bervroux.

Breathing : Provides human energy which will ionise the atmosphere. By R.p.T.

Geological Data : Part II. By " Vulcain."

Radiesthesia : Everyday uses for the ordinary person. A lecture by F. Servranx.

May, 1947.

Investigators at Antwerp : Studying physical aspects, the Group is using a machine which detects infallibly the position of a small amount of buried metal. Praise of Mr. Maby's initiative in physical research.

Radiation of Thought : A concept which links map-reading technique to telepathy. A reference to stimulated telepathy discovered by Prof. Calligaris, Neurologist, of Rome, whose work has been reported in French by Dr. Leprince. By V. Mertens.

Metaphysics and the Pendulum : Disc reading, which provides definition of character in a manner like the phrenologist's. By J. Servranx, Author of " *La Lecture du Caractère au Pendule.*"

Detective Technique : Part II. By Herrinckx.

Report of a Lecture by Vet. Dr. Maréchal, who hopes soon to disclose a perfected method for transmitting healing radiations corresponding to medicinal remedies. Already he has succeeded in passing a radiation into salt water capable of affecting mice.

Dowsing : On the estimation of output in accordance with the Mertens formula ; the use of a Pitois condenser (modified) for indicating the depth of clay.

N.McB.

REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE RADIESTHÈSIE.

No. 3.

In an editorial, the resignation of M. Jean Charloteaux is announced, with much regret.

Combat pour le Titre, by Maurice Le Gall. He states the necessity for precision of thought as regards (*a*) the exact time to which a research is applicable, (*b*) the nature of the research. ***Rémanence*** is due to neglect of (*a*).

La Radiesthésie et le Monde Savant, by Professor Antoine Luzy. A psychic operator, he discusses whether Radiesthesia is Science or Art and deprecates the attribution of a physical origin without the possession of real proof.

L'Orientation Mentale, by E. Christophe. As the originator of this expression, and of others now in common use, he notes with satisfaction the tendency of various operators, such as Paul Serres and J. F. Ravat, whose works he quotes, to revert to belief in this theory.

La Perception Humaine en Radiesthésie (continuation), by L. Chouteau. This completion of the previous article contains a discussion on the use of samples as opposed to *orientation mentale* and to the necessity for the development by dowsers of automatism in their work.

La Téléradiesthésie, probleme humain et philosophique, by Paul Serres.

Possibilita e Realita della Radiesthesia Psichica, by Valeria Peretti. Colour is essential in her method. Examples are given of successful pronouncements on the fate of certain missing people.

La Radiesthésie, est-elle Socur de la Teleradiesthesie ? by Jean Martial. Because the dowser's objective possesses physical qualities, it does not follow that it is by them that he is affected. Explanations are better avoided until they are irrefutable.

La Sourcellerie, radiophysique ou connaissance paranormale, by Dr. Jean Jarricot. He advances a metaphysical explanation of dowsing.

Cancer et Radiesthésie, by G. Discry. He claims the superiority of radiesthetic treatment, in which he uses extracts of plants, to the use of radium, especially in cases of internal cancer. He works only in collaboration with qualified doctors.

Vitamines et Radiesthésie, by Ch. Sollet. He describes how he distinguishes vitamins by means of Mellin's colour screens, coloured cards and ribbons, and by actual samples.

Polarité Humaine et Diagnostic du Sexe, by Dr. Jules Regnault. A very interesting article.

Le Radar Humain, by Paul de Parcevaux (Buenos Aires). He considers that pigeons find their way by radar, and that in early ages radar was a comman human attribute.

There follows a number of contributions in answer to the question " What is your most sensational or picturesque radiesthetic experience ?"

Discussion d'Idées. Disputing the opinion expressed in a previous number, and well supported in this article by M. Charloteaux, that animals do not show a defensive attitude towards radiesthetic detection, M. Christophe gives a few unconvincing instances to the contrary.

Prospection Minière, by M. Larvaron. He describes the difficulties incidental to the search for a particular kind of clay.

Note sur l' Utilité de l'emploi de la Radiesthésie dans l' Etude du Sous-Sul, by Domenico Corpi (Istanbul).

La Radiesthésie au Service de l' Apiculture, by O. Niquille. He describes how radiesthésie can be used to detect the internal state of a hive without opening it.

A.H.B.

NOTES AND NEWS

Mr. J. F. Thring, in a letter to the *Natal Mercury* of November 26th, 1946, stated that many years before a water diviner had informed him that a powerful stream of water was flowing diagonally beneath the bed of the Umgeni River, which was actually tapped when piles for the bridge were sunk.

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A particularly silly article entitled " Doodlebugs " was printed in *Science Illustrated* (New York) for January, 1947.

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Mr. T. J. Kelly (B.S.D.), in a letter dated January 14th, 1947, stated that Mr. Bennett, his partner in the firm of Artesian Wellborers at Longford, Ireland, has been working on much the same lines as Dr. Brunler in checking the mentality of famous people, and had also divined the quality of horses, cattle and greyhounds. He goes on to say : " Mr. Bennett has developed the gift of divining so that his mind appears to control it. I have often tested him when motoring through the country to divine water without the divining rod. I would ask him to tell me when we came to a spring. He would tell me to stop the car, that we were beside a spring, that the width of the spring was so many yards and depth of water so much. He would then get out of the car, take his divining rod and get the results exactly as he had divined. Can any of your members explain this ? We cannot.

" Divining without maps is something similar. We get an inquiry for a water supply for, say, Mr. Murphy of Cork. In a couple of minutes Mr. Bennett will tell me if there is a spring near Mr. Murphy's house, what side of the house it lies, width and depth. Suppose it lies 20 yards to the west of the house, Mr. Bennett goes into one of his fields where there is no spring. He puts down a peg to mark the west wall of Mr. Murphy's house, walks 20 yards from it with his divining rod and gets the reaction

for Mr. Murphy's spring in Cork in his own field, and he gets the width and depth in his own field to correspond with the Cork spring. It is amazing and inexplicable.

"When boring an artesian well, Mr. Bennett always selects a spot on the centre of the spring. It sometimes happens that when the hole is bored to the required depth none or very little water comes into the borehole. The only explanation for this is that the hole at the level of the spring was surrounded by a collar of solid rock, and it is necessary to fire a shot of gelignite to crack the rock and let the water in.

"To overcome this difficulty, Mr. Bennett now divines the best places to bore. He marks out the centre line of the spring, and walks along this line with his rod. Whenever he comes to a good spot for boring, the rod reacts, and we mark several spots on the centre line so that our clients can select whichever spot suits them. He has been using this system for the past few years, and in every case results have been obtained without the necessity of firing shots.

"The extraordinary thing about this is that he walks up the centre of springs and gets no reaction from the water. This appears to us to show that the mind controls his divining."

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In a review of *The Story of Water Supply* in the *Bristol Evening World* of February 10th, 1947, by Mr. F. W. Robins, mention is made of some of the experiences of the author with water diviners.

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A somewhat misleading and ill-informed article entitled "Dowsing for Water" appeared in *Municipal Engineering* of March 7th, 1947. A powerful rejoinder from Mr. J. Cecil Maby was published in the issue of May 2nd.

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As reported in the *Stourbridge County Express* of March 22nd, 1947, Mr. W. G. Lynes (B.S.D.) referred to water-divining in a talk to Brierley Hill Rotarians at their weekly lunch on March 18th.

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In a letter entitled "Chemical Effects of Moonlight," from Elizabeth Sidney Seemens, published in *Nature* of May 3rd, five experiments are described which revealed that the partially polarised light from the waxing and waning moon has a pronounced effect on the germination of seeds and on plant tissues. The letter ends, "they should serve to dispel the idea of superstition and old wives' fables."

CHARLES CLARKE (HAYWARDS HEATH) LTD.,
PRINTERS.